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WESTSIDE OBSERVER

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May 2015

Ready for West Portal's Traffic Armageddon?



By George Wooding

Big Infrastructure changes to West Portal Avenue's water, sewage, road paving coupled with the closure of the Twin Peaks tunnel will have a dramatic impact on the West portal area for the next 18 months.

The Department of Public Work's (DPW) Water main and Road Project are scheduled to begin on April 2015 and end in August. The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agencies' (SFMTA) Blue Light Emergency Telephone project and the Tunnel Radio Replacement project will both begin in July of 2015 and end in January.

Finally, the (SFMTA's) Twin Peaks Tunnel Rebuild will start in January 2016 and end in August.

West Portal Ave Water Main, Sewer and Paving Project

Many may remember the broken, 60 year old, 16 inch water-main located at 15th Avenue and Wawona that broke apart, creating a flood that damaged 23 homes in the surrounding neighborhood. After that the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) had to set-up

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Despite the age and deterioration to the tunnel, the City has never performed any seismic retrofits to the Twin Peaks Tunnel."



Inside the Twin Peaks Tunnel from SFMTA's Tunnel Inspection Report 2009

Balboa Reservoir Plan Moves to the Next Stage

By Maya Lekach

Back in January, the Public Land for Housing Commission held a community meeting at Lick-Wilmerding High School to discuss the planned changes to be made at the site of the Balboa Reservoir on Phelan Avenue. What has been a cement eyesore and over-large parking lot for many years is now facing development, like almost everywhere else in the city, although the PLHC is making sure to get community approval and suggestions from meetings like this one in January, and again at the May 5th meeting.

The initial meeting in January could be described as something close to what one might see in a sitcom or small-town drama: everyone had something to say and it seemed like no one was saying the same thing. The



...everyone had something to say and it seemed like no one was saying the same thing. The commonality among the community members seemed to be a strong sense of NIMBY...

commonality among the community members seemed to be a strong sense of NIMBY (Not In My Backyard).

Despite the dissenting opinions of the neighborhood constituents, project manager Jeremy Shaw has moved forward toward a strategy over the past four

Cont. p. 14

Go Dubs!

By John Farrell

As of the writing of this article the Golden State Warriors just finished up an amazing season and will start playing in the first round of the NBA playoffs. It will be a tough road along the way if they face the Spurs and then LeBron and the Cavaliers in the Finals. But the only team that can beat the Warriors is themselves. They are that good.

I have been a Warriors fan since I can remember. I was attending St. Ignatius when I went to several games during that miraculous 1975 year when they last won the NBA Championship. They were supposed to lose in the Finals to the Washington Bullets in four. Instead they beat them in four.

There were a lot of tough years along the way but some amazing ones as well. From Al Attles and Rick Barry, to Run TMC, to "We Believe" till now. To me the current Warriors are the Best Sports Show in the World. The fast pace offense, the in-your-face defense, the best



backcourt in the game of MVP Stephen Curry and Klay Thompson – "the Splash Brothers" - and the unbelievable fans who have never given up on them. And I am one of them.

The last two years have been fun to watch, but this is a special year when everything gelled. They finished with an NBA best record 67-15, which is tied for the sixth best record of all time, and with a home record of 39-2, which is tied for the second best of all-time. Both Warrior franchise records. They finished first in offense, first in defense and have a first year coach Steve Kerr who deserves "Coach of the Year". He and his highly-regarded coaching staff took a wild horse of talented players and pulled everything together as a team. The Warriors are a class operation from top to bottom, and when everyone is on the same page then you get something special like this year. But let's don't forget former coach Mark Jackson. As he eloquently put it, "You cannot disrespect the caterpillar and rave about the butterfly."

I love our Giants and 49ers, but when it comes to an exciting, high energy, high paced game, they are no

Cont. p. 5



Rafael Mandelman introduces Minority Speaker Nancy Pelosi to thank her for her efforts on behalf of the college's accreditation. Photo: Khaled Sayed

City College: A Threat Averted, But Many Challenges Ahead

By Rafael Mandelman

The last few years have been rough for City College of San Francisco, and I wish I could say that our wild ride was over. Unfortunately, I fear we may have a few more heart-stopping twists and turns still ahead before we finally can finally declare our troubles behind us. If San Francisco, and the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, have learned anything from our mutually-destructive entanglement, however, it is this: City College is simply too important to be allowed to fail. City College is not closing, but big questions remain about what kind of institution the College will be going forward, and whether and how fully it can recover from the damage that has been done.

Accreditation

Following the Commission putting the College on "Show Cause" status, its most severe level of sanction short of termination, back in July 2012, the College moved quickly to initiate a far-reaching program of reforms to address the issues raised by the Commission, primarily in the areas of finance, administration and governance. The College's system of "shared governance," wherein the various College constituencies were engaged in institutional decision-making through a complicated system of committees, was essentially scrapped and replaced with a far more streamlined (some would say, far less democratic) "participatory governance" system. The College's administrative structure was reorganized and a number of longtime administrators sent packing. And the Board approved an 8-year financial plan that committed funds from the 2012 parcel tax largely to Commission-favored priorities, including maintenance of the College's aging and neglected facilities, technology investments, funding of long-term liability for retiree benefits, and building up reserves, which had been eroded during the Great Recession. Sadly, notwithstanding these and other efforts and only weeks after the Board had approved a balanced budget for 2013-14 that included a \$2 million surplus, the Commission announced in July 2013 that it would be terminating the College's accreditation effective July 2014.

Today, thanks to the efforts of State Chancellor Brice Harris and many others, not least among them San Francisco City Attorney Dennis Herrera (who filed a lawsuit to stop the Commission from following through on its threat to close the College), City College remains open and accredited under a new accreditation status called "Restoration." The Commission created this status in June 2014, just days before its prior order terminating City College's accreditation was set to take effect and with the City Attorney's lawsuit then still pending. Restoration status gives City College an additional two years to come into full compliance with all accreditation standards. Our dance with the Commission continues, however, as a Commission evaluating team will be back in November 2016 to determine whether City College has, in fact, come into full compliance with the Commission's standards.

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Laguna Honda's Falling Star

By Dr. Maria Rivero and Dr. Derek Kerr

Abarely audible Mivic Hirose, CEO of Laguna Honda Hospital (LHH), duped the Health Commission on 9/9/14. She reported “fewer deficiencies” when the hospital’s Health Inspection rating plunged to a below average 2-stars. Three months before, Hirose had pledged “to boost Laguna Honda to 4 stars” in its upcoming inspection. Instead, she silenced the flubbed survey, and the resulting loss of LHH’s Overall 5-star Medicare status. At LHH only good news is amplified.

In 2009, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (Medicare) instituted a 5-star rating system, Nursing Home Compare, to evaluate nursing homes. Medicare awards 1 to 5 stars in 3 domains: Nursing Staffing, Quality Measures and Health Inspections, plus an Overall star rating based on the others. Medicare warns that; “All of these data are reported by the nursing homes themselves. Nursing home inspectors...don't formally check it to ensure accuracy...The information should be interpreted cautiously...along with information from the Long Term Care Ombudsman's Office, the State Survey Agency, or other sources.” Nursing homes like LHH flaunt their stars, without noting Medicare’s caveat.

Moreover, Medicare does not report violations of California nursing home standards, State citations and fines, or complaints filed with State agencies. That’s because licensing requirements for State Medicaid programs (MediCal in California) differ from those mandated by Medicare. Only federal-level violations affect star ratings. For example, in 2013 LHH received 30 State deficiencies but only 19 were recorded in Medicare’s federal ratings. Similarly, three \$1,000 State fines for patient injuries in 2011 and 2012 didn’t impact LHH’s Medicare star ratings. See www.nursinghomeguide.org for this data from California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform.

The star-rating system provides an incentive for nursing homes to improve their care. It also induces some to gain stars without earning them. As per an 8/24/14 New York Times article, *Medicare Star Ratings Allow Nursing Homes to Game the System*, facilities plagued by serious deficiencies can garner 5-star ratings. Since higher scores attract clients, revenue, and prestige, some facilities inflate their scores.

In 2009, just 35% of nursing homes were granted 4 or 5 stars overall. By 2013, it rose to 51% - including LHH. An overall rating of 3 stars is considered average, but by 2014 the average score for US facilities was 3.46 stars. When a majority of facilities are above average, the system is unreliable. As a result, Medicare instituted reforms. One-third of US nursing homes lost Overall stars this year, with more to follow in 2016.

Laguna Honda’s star-quest started in 2010, when its Overall rating was 2 stars – below average. The next year, in the new building, 3 stars. A 4th star was captured in 2012. CEO Hirose, who collected \$290, 819 in pay plus benefits, pushed until LHH wrangled a 5th star in 2013, only to lose it in 2014. To detect how LHH zoomed up, and out, of the top tier in 4 years, we examined its Nursing Staffing, Quality Measures, and Health Inspection scores.

Nursing Staffing

Higher nursing staffing correlates with better patient care. Each year, facilities report their numbers of nurses per resident. LHH has always received 5-stars for staffing, thereby getting an extra Overall

star. Since the 1997 departure of former Nursing Director Virginia Leishman, licensed nurses have been pulled from direct patient care to administration, while certified nursing assistants were replaced by less-qualified health aides. Nonetheless, LHH remains better-staffed than most nursing homes, with lower turnover, thanks to the City’s good wages and benefits. In other words, nothing could improve LHH’s staffing ratings. To prevent fraud, Medicare will now verify staffing levels by checking payroll data.

Quality Measures

These are indicators of quality care such as the percent of patients with injury falls, bedsores, or severe pain. Only 11 aspects of care are assessed, so their scope isn’t comprehensive. Further, such measures are suspect because they are self-reported by nursing homes. To wit, State inspectors faulted LHH for failing to report a patient fight that caused an injury last year. Besides such under-reporting, adverse events can be minimized by LHH’s Quality Management Department before they are transmitted to Medicare. A former LHH analyst, who requested anonymity, told us, “Laguna administrators, charged with filing self-reports that should have been forthcoming, accurate and even regretful, were indeed adept at gaming the system.” By clasping 5-stars for self-reported Quality Measures in 2013, LHH was granted an extra Overall star.

Massaging Quality Measures is widespread. In 2009, 37% of Nursing Homes held 4-5 star ratings on Quality Measures. By 2014, a preposterous 80% were all-stars, including LHH which had jumped from 3 to 5 stars. This surge, partly due to changes in its calculations, forced Medicare to recalibrate. So, two-thirds of nursing homes dropped in their quality ratings, and 30% lost Overall stars. This year, Medicare audits will inhibit deceptive reporting.

Health Inspections

This is the backbone of the ratings system, the only domain scored independently by State inspectors. Since surveys occur almost annually, nursing homes anticipate them. At LHH, preparatory “mock inspections” and clean-ups aim to minimize deficiency findings. During surveys, LHH’s “Command Center” tracks inspectors’ activities, then orders quick fixes to undiscovered violations. From 2010 through 2012, inspectors found relatively few federal deficiencies. Since Health Inspection ratings are derived from the 3 most recent surveys, LHH rose to “above average” in 2012. This, plus its jump in Quality Measures, contributed to its trumpeted 5th Overall star in 2013.

Untrumpeted was LHH’s fall to 4 Overall stars after surveyors found 19 federal deficiencies in 2013, followed by 12 deficiencies in 2014. The 2014 lapses included: failure to monitor an amputee’s phantom-limb pain for 9 weeks; failure to adjust a Care Plan for a patient with rapidly worsening dementia; not monitoring

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Mivic Hirose, CEO Laguna Honda Hospital

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Settlement Reached —Forest Knolls Gets New Neighbors

After a lengthy dispute with Mount Sutro Wood Owners Association which lead to a battle in Superior Court that kept the project from proceeding as approved, “Outlook Project” settlement has been reached.¹ Approved for development in early 2013 with a total 34-units (24 duplexes and 10 townhomes), at the end of Crestmont Drive on the western slope of Mount Sutro.

The settlement, reduces the units from 34 to 29, with five (5) duplexes will be reduced in height by a story as single-family homes.

1. www.westsideobserver.com/2012/crestmont.html



Missing Notorious Crooks of San Francisco?

So are we. Paul Drexler had written only five columns for the *Observer* when *The San Francisco Examiner* hired Drexler to write a column on historic crime twice a month for their newspaper. Unfortunately this means he won’t be writing his popular crime column for the *Westside Observer* for the foreseeable future.

We are grateful for the five columns Paul wrote for the *Observer*, and they will remain on the website at: westsideobserver.com/columns/crooks.html and of course there are even more stories at www.crookstour.com under the menu item Streets of San Francisco. We wish him the best in the future.

SEE OUR PROGRESS

in San Francisco



Patrick Moore
Senior Customer Care
Implementation Manager
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-  **Connected** more than 4,500 rooftop solar installations



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Ruminations From a Former Supervisor By Quentin Kopp



In 1948, Carl Sandburg wrote in the epilogue to *Remembrance Rock*: “If she (America) forgets where she came from, if the people lose sight of what brought them along, if she listens to the deniers and mockers, then we’ll begin the rot and dissolution.”

Sandburg’s words apply to the now-numerous instances these past months of protests protected by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, and Article I, Sections 2 and 3 of the California Constitution, destroying and damaging personal property of non-participants and injuring many persons, mostly peace officers. Forgotten frequently, if not entirely, are the rule of law, the judicial system, and the presumption of innocence until proven otherwise beyond a reasonable doubt regarding those accused of violating laws, even police officers.

In California, a few public officials, none of them elected, have condemned such heartbreaking unlawfulness, notably the Commissioner of the California Highway Patrol and Sheriff of Alameda County. The Governor, state legislators, mayors, supervisors, councilmembers, and most other Bay Area elected officials have been mute.

San Francisco is fortunate to escape the kind of destruction that Oakland emblemizes, as go media “regulars” like Baltimore, New York City and Ferguson, Missouri. It continually saddens me that relatively few people, including most journalists and electronic media reporters, possess scant knowledge of fundamentals of the American system of law. It shows in their reporting.

Even more sadly are revelations about a relatively few San Francisco Police Department sworn peace officers engaging in racist, derogatory comments. Besides the police officers’ union (the San Francisco Police Officers Association), not one elected local official has publicly reminded us of the burdens of protecting the public’s safety, and enforcing the California Penal Code and other governmental rules on conduct.

Bear in mind that a San Francisco police officer’s conduct is subject not only to investigation by the Police Department Internal Affairs Bureau, which I’ve respected ever since the era of then-Captain Mort McNerney; the Office of Citizens Complaints, an always-growing bureaucracy arising from a political deal in the late 1970s by a then politically-motivated union president and a now-forgotten San Francisco Supervisor; the District Attorney on the prowl for reasons to reelect him; the Federal Bureau of Investigation; and even the Federal Department of Homeland Security. With legislative bodies throughout California, and particularly San Francisco, allowing crude, disruptive behavior at their public meetings, today’s society finds no boundaries for behavior, eventually resulting in hostile attitudes towards peace officers. Legislative bodies are premised upon the deliberative process, not the signage, chants, and vulgarity of easily identifiable members of vox populi. Those adverse conditions won’t change without attention by elected officials, legislative and executive.

The Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART) was established by the State legislature and then-Governor Goodwin Knight in 1957. It consisted of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, and San Mateo counties (Santa Clara County was in the original legislation, but requested deletion). By 1961, BART directors were ready to submit their final engineering plan to the five remaining counties for approval, but in December 1961, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, under pressure from the largest shopping center developer in the county, withdrew from the District. Alameda, Contra Costa and San Francisco realized the District-wide tax base would thus be so reduced that the cost of Marin County service across the Golden Gate Bridge could not be supported. Marin County departed the district in early 1962. In November 1962, Alameda, Contra Costa, and San Francisco voters approved a \$792,000,000 general obligation bond to build about 72 miles, including 31 miles of aerial construction, 24 miles of grade construction, 11 miles of subway, 5 miles of tunnels, and 4 miles of sub-aqueous tube. The bond was approved in all three counties by 61.215% of approximately 750,000 voters (the founding legislation required but a 60% voter approval, not the customary 66.7% for general obligation bonds.) The original system was partially opened on September 11, 1972, with service from Fremont to North Oakland. By 1973 all sections were complete, including service to Daly City, in non-District member San Mateo County, one of 33 stations; trans-bay service didn’t commence until September 16, 1974, after operational safety was certified by the California Public Utilities Commission.

Subsequently in the 1990s, BART service was extended in San Mateo County to stations in Colma, South San Francisco, San Bruno and Millbrae. (BART now consists of 104 miles.) Thus, San Mateo County residents have received BART service without participating in the original indebtedness of taxpayers or the extra half-cent sales tax imposed upon Alameda, Contra Costa, and San Francisco by the Legislature in April 1969, after the original \$792,000,000 bond proceeds proved insufficient to pay for the original 72 miles.

A recent column by the Regional Policy Director of TransForm, an Oakland non-profit “that promotes transportation choices and walk able communities to help connect people to opportunity...and address our climate crisis” informed readers that BART needs almost \$5,000,000,000 for track replacement, repairs, new cars, and other improvements. He advocates a property tax increase for taxpayers in Alameda, Contra Costa and San Francisco to support a \$4,500,000,000 general obligation bond in 2016.

Since the extension of BART to Millbrae, BART, with financial contribution from Santa Clara County, has also decided to extend service in the East Bay to San Jose. Santa Clara County will defray some of that \$1,000,000,000 expenditure. Therefore, if the ever-increasingly used BART system submits a 2016 general obligation bond to its three membership counties, it is time for San Mateo County and Santa Clara County taxpayers to participate fully. That should be the message to the San Francisco BART directors. San Francisco taxpayers are tired of subsidizing San Mateo County taxpayers. Present any general obligation bond to all five of the counties, not just Alameda, Contra Costa and San Francisco.

Taxpayers should also know of an obscure but separate taxpayer-supported transportation entity, the San Francisco Bay Area Water Emergency Transportation Authority (“WETA”). Ever hear of it? I didn’t think so. It was calculatingly established after I departed the State Senate in 1998 at the instigation of the developer of a project on Alameda Island to enhance selling points for his condominiums. The Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District, having repaid its original bonds, went into the transportation business in the late 1960s, not just with buses, but by buying ferry boats, thereby requiring the continuation, and steady increase, of tolls to subsidize passengers.

Ferry boat transportation represents a glittering reminder of times preceding the 1936 opening of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge, but requires tremendous

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San Francisco’s Housing Crisis Housing Withers on the Vine

By Patrick Monette-Shaw

Dreaming of middle-class affordable housing? Forget it!

You’d figure that a Mayor who wants to entice voters into approving a \$250 million housing bond next November — and re-electing him — would be forthcoming responding to requests for records of his housing accomplishments.

You’d be wrong. This Mayor’s Office of Housing keeps thumbing its nose at reasonable records requests. This can only be seen as a new definition of hubris: Expecting voters to pass a bond measure and re-elect the Mayor, but totally unwilling to provide basic records.

Emperor’s New Clothes: Four Opaque Reports

To understand the wither of housing being built in San Francisco you need to wade through reading at least four reports to piece the cookie crumbs together.

In November 2014, voters passed Proposition “K,” the Affordable Housing declaration of policy that Supervisor Jane Kim agreed to water-down with the Mayor that replaced her proposed ballot measure for affordable housing. The declaration of policy regurgitated the Mayor’s January 2014 State of the City speech in which he pledged to construct or rehabilitate at least 30,000 homes by the year 2020, claiming 50% of the housing will be affordable for middle-class households, and at least 33% would be affordable for low- and moderate-income households.

Civil Grand Jury Report

In June 2014, SF’s 2013–2014 Civil Grand Jury released a report titled “The Mayor’s Office of Housing: Under Pressure and Challenged to Preserve Diversity.”

Its report focused research on the 2014 Affordable Housing goals Mayor Lee announced in his State of the City speech. The Grand Jury was interested in learning whether the housing targets are achievable, whether there is sufficient transparency so the public can accurately assess whether objectives are being met, and whether fairness is being applied when Affordable units become available for occupancy.

In discussing challenges facing MOHCD, the Jury wrongly noted that the Housing Trust Fund — which I’ve reported will divert \$1.3 billion to \$1.5 billion from our General Fund over the next 30 years — “may need to provide stabilization funding to the Housing Authority for emergency repairs” [public housing].

Clearly worried about diverting HTF funds to Housing Authority “Re-envisioning” projects — given the Jury’s acknowledgement that the City Charter provides that MOHCD has sole discretion on HTF disbursements — the Jury then cautions that the City’s Administrative Code only



Olson Lee, Mayor’s Office of Housing and Community Development
Photo: Luke Thomas

requires that MOHCD report to the Board of Supervisors every fifth year, beginning in 2018, five years after the initial FY 2013–2014 \$20 million HTF allocation.

By the time the Board of Supervisors holds its first hearing in 2018, MOHCD will have been handed a total of \$128 million into the Housing Trust Fund from the City’s General Fund to use at its sole discretion during its first five years. Given MOHCD’s dubious track record, the Supervisors need to reduce the five-year period to two years, and schedule its first hearing in 2015.

The Jury’s report noted its policy concerns for affordable housing parity and fair distribution of housing built for all income tiers. Looking at it by household income as a percentage of AMI, the Jury noted that the City achieved 113% of market rate housing (those earning greater than 120% of Area Median Income) between 2007 and 2014 identified in the Regional Housing Needs Allocation goals, a state-mandated planning document. In the same period the City built 65% of housing for extremely-low and very-low households (those earning less than 50% of AMI).

But the City only produced 16% of the housing goal for low-income earners (50% to 79% of AMI), and 25% of housing needs for moderate-income earners (80% to 120% of AMI).

Looking at it by income distribution, high-income earners (over 120% of AMI) comprise 38% of all households in San Francisco, and reached 113% of housing production, while the extremely-low and very-low earners make up 30% of all households and saw 65% of their housing construction goals, and while those considered “middle income” (50% to 120% of AMI) make up 32% of all San Francisco Households, but saw just 20% of their housing construction needs met.

Housing Inventory Report

The Planning Department’s 2014 Housing Inventory Report reveals a host of data that is disturbing, at best.

In an introductory highlight Planning reports there was a net addition of 3,514 total units to the City’s housing stock in (presumably) calendar year 2014, but just 757 of them were new “affordable housing” units, or just 21.5% of new affordable units. Clearly, the 21.5% figure is far short

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WEST OF TWIN PEAKS CENTRAL COUNCIL By Mitch Bull

The April meeting of the West of Twin Peaks Central Council featured presentations and discussions about public safety, police staffing, and the increase in burglaries and car break-ins.

President Roger Ritter opened the meeting, spoke about the agenda for the evening, and following the roll call, invited the San Francisco Chief of Police, Greg Suhr, up to the front to address the attendees. The Chief, who lives about 4 blocks from the Forest Hills Clubhouse, spoke about crime statistics, the “state” of the SFPD, which has been significantly understaffed for 10-15 years, and the factors that have contributed to a large increase in the number of burglaries and car break-ins in 2015.

Overall, the trends are good, as violent crime and homicides have dropped to 50% of levels a year ago, but property crimes, and petty thefts under \$950 in total are up approximately 20%, including the fact that auto break-ins are up 60%. Property crimes are up approximately 15% and conversely, arrests are down by 15%, as the department has been running about 300 officers short since 2000. The good news is that with the economy recovering, three academy classes have been added with a fourth on the way in the spring, the most new classes in 20-25 years. It is estimated that by no later than 2018 those 300 vacant positions will be filled, resulting in more “beat” cops, bicycle officers and task forces. Even with the increase in population, homicides have dropped from approximately 100 per year, to 45 in 2014, a historical low number.

An interesting part of the discussion highlighted the differences between misdemeanor petty theft (under \$950) and break-ins that are felonies. If a person opens your unlocked car and takes your laptop, iPod, etc., it’s petty theft and a misdemeanor. If the same person breaks a window of a locked car and takes the same possessions, it’s felony theft. But if the burglar breaks the car window, goes and grabs

a bit of lunch on West Portal Avenue, comes back in an hour and reaches in and takes your stuff, it’s back to a misdemeanor because the car was “found” unlocked!

Chief Suhr was firm on two things, don’t leave items in plain sight in the car where a person would be tempted to break in, and make the call to the SFPD when a crime occurs. Even though they are short on officers, Suhr reiterated that the SFPD will respond to every call, though it may take several hours. By filing a report, the police department is better able to establish trends and collect information that can result in a future arrest. He pointed out the case of the infamous “Night Stalker” who was ultimately arrested due to a drivers license number on a piece of jewelry he had stolen. The crime scene yielded a fingerprint, which eventually tied him to murders, for which he was imprisoned.

District 8 Supervisor Scott Weiner followed the Police Chief to gave an update of the major items he is working on at City Hall. Echoing the remarks from Chief Suhr, the Supervisor cited the need to bring the number of police officers back to approximately 2000. In addition he said that research should be done to determine if 2000 is enough. Since the



2000 number was established in 1971, the city has added over 100,000 more residents and constructed new neighborhoods that didn’t exist 30 years ago. He said that by looking at the staffing ratios in SF versus other large cities, the number of officers needed could be higher than the charter-mandated 2000. He stated that increasing funding for the police department would most likely cause a large brawl in the next budget cycle, and that citizens in support of increased funding for public safety should both contact their supervisor, and spread the word with their friends in other districts to do the same.

Other projects that the Supervisor is working on are related to mandating that within 5 years, all landscaping and street

cleaning water will be supplied using recycled water. In addition, he has legislation in place that would mandate that newly-planned large buildings would be required to install a recycled “grey” water system.

In the final piece of business for the evening, Sunnyside Neighborhood Association delegate Estelle Smith reported on the establishment of the Community Advisory Committee for the Balboa Reservoir Project. The second community meeting to discuss the project will be held on Tuesday, May 5 from 6:00 – 8:00 PM at the CCSF Multi-Use Building, 50 Phelan Avenue, Room 140.

The next meeting: Monday, June 1 at 7:30 PM at the historic Forest Hills Clubhouse. Info: www.westoftwinpeaks.org

Go Dubs! (Cont. from p. 1)

match to the Warriors. The Warriors are a non-stop adrenalin rush. If you turn your head for one second you can miss a spectacular drive, pass, or shot from Steph – “the Human Torch”, a stop-and-shoot three by Klay, a defensive stop from Draymond, a dramatic block or rebound from Bogut, or a slam dunk from the Black Falcon. Even the second team, which includes All-Star David Lee, would be the first on another team. Watching Iggy defend and anticipating another players move is

amazing. Watching Barbosa “the Brazilian Blur” drive up court is like watching an explosion from a cannon. We want more buckets from “Mo Buckets”.

If you haven’t watched our Warriors then I highly recommend it. It’s a thrill.

Thank you for this special year. All the Best! Go Dubs!

John Farrell Broker/Realtor* – Farrell Real Estate, MBA, Former City Asst. Assessor-Budget/Special Projects, 5th Generation San Franciscan, Westside resident - farrell-reinvestments@yahoo.com

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SERVICE IMPROVEMENT

ROUTES

Increased AM Frequency	»	5R, 8AX, 8BX, 10, 14R, 14X, 28, 38R, 41
Increased PM Frequency	»	5R, 8AX, 8BX, 14R, 14X, 38R, 41
Increased Midday Frequency	»	5R, 8, 14R, 29
Longer AM hours	»	14X, 1AX, 1BX, 8AX, 8BX, 30X, 31AX, 31BX
Now on Sundays	»	38R
Increased Weekend Hours	»	14R

New Route Numbers and Names

OLD	NEW
6 Parnassus	6 Haight-Parnassus
8X Bayshore Express	8 Bayshore
16X Noriega Express	7X Noriega Express
17 Parkmerced	57 Parkmerced
33 Stanyan	33 Ashbury-18th
71/71L Haight-Noriega	7/7R Haight-Noriega
108 Treasure Island	25 Treasure Island

Rapid is the New Limited

“R” replaced “L” for Limited-stop routes.

OLD		NEW
5L Fulton Limited	»	5R Fulton Rapid
9L San Bruno Limited	»	9R San Bruno Rapid
14L Mission Limited	»	14R Mission Rapid
28L 19th Ave Limited	»	28R 19th Ave Rapid
38L Geary Limited	»	38R Geary Rapid
71L Haight-Noriega Limited	»	7R Haight-Noriega Rapid

Commentary

Scoring Our Utilities

By Steve Lawrence



First, be assured that Governor Brown's 25% reduction mandate will have little effect on you. San Francisco residents will only be asked to do a little better than they did last year when they conserved 8% and set new lows for residential water use per person. The Water Department has a plan to save what water SF is asked to save by focusing on larger users. Exception: if you have a reduced wastewater factor, you may be in for special attention; water for landscaping should be reduced.

Think about what a utility is. Society enables a monopoly. One business entity, public or private, is tasked with providing a service such as electricity, water, sewage, garbage, or perhaps internet service. In return it fairly divides up its costs among the customers. The utility is allowed a regulated, reasonable profit. If the utility is public there is no profit.

While perhaps the public utility sounds better, public agencies may be less efficient. They make government larger, and tend to "do more," such as hire teens

profit will be plowed into renewable generation infrastructure.)

When a utility is fined, it is much like a tax. The cost of that fine will find its way to customers, taxpayers.

Levying huge fines on large corporations is similar. Recently government has written vague regulations, and even incentivized behavior which it later determines is violation. Corporations pay large fines to government, sometimes tens of billions, and pass that cost on to consumers (stand-ins for taxpayers).

Without the marketplace to provide correction, scorecards such as that provided by SFPUC are perhaps some assurance that costs do not grow too unreasonable.

in summer, provide community benefits, plant greenways, give away toilets, finance solar installations, run Lake Merced, and clean up gun club pollution.

Public or private, the principle is the same: the public grants the utility the right and duty to provide a service (usually an exclusive right), and the utility agrees to control cost, divide it among users fairly, and accept a reasonable profit (if public, none).

When government fines a utility, as PG&E has been fined (\$1.6 billion), what is the utility to do with that cost? Eventually it spreads the cost out to its customers.

When CleanPowerSF opens for business, PG&E's rates will be the benchmark. If PG&E's rates are higher, so too will be CleanPowerSF's rates. (CleanPowerSF's

Do you imagine that government does not understand how sweet a method of quasi-taxation this is? "Money for nothing and chicks for free" sang Dire Straits. Tax revenue disguised; publicity ops for free.

When a utility is public rather than private, there may be pressure to ensure that the costs it distributes to users are reasonable.

In San Francisco, rates are set by public appointees at a public hearing. For example, rates for electricity to be sold by CleanPowerSF will be set at the SFPUC's Commission meeting of May 12th; water and sewer rates were set last year, for multiple years. (An example rate for a single family household using "six units" or about 4488 gallons per month (150 gallons per

Cont. p. 7

Not So Happy at the Vape Lounge

By: Anita Theoharis

In a midterm interview published in the March 2015 *Westside Observer*, Supervisor Yee spun his January 13, 2015 Board vote to grant a conditional use permit for the Happy Vape lounge as a land use question on which he had little choice but to vote yes — despite the outpouring of opposition from District 7 residents and schools.

As the former president of the San Francisco Planning Commission who voted on hundreds of conditional use requests, I can say that nothing is farther from the truth. And if you watch the Board deliberations, it is clear that the rest of the Board agreed with me and was prepared to reject the vape lounge's request. Instead, when Yee led the charge for approval, they deferred to the supervisor since it was his district. So much for his attempt to spin the matter.

But Yee turning his back on his constituents is not what has moved me to respond.

Rather, it is his cynical flip flop on the health concerns of e-cigarettes, characterizing the concerns as unfounded and touting the fact that some smokers cite e-cigarettes as helping them to quit smoking. And all without mentioning the impact on our children of Big Tobacco's marketing aimed at the youthful demographic.

Prior to Supervisor Yee's motion to approve the Vape Lounge, he sang a very different tune and for good reason.

On March 6, 2014 he chaired a meeting of the Rules Committee on proposed legislation banning the smoking of e-cigarettes in public spaces. The testimony as to the health hazards of e-cigarettes, and the targeting of children by Big Tobacco, was eye opening. When it suited him in front of a vocal anti e-cigarette crowd, our supervisor enthusiastically joined the movement, stating:

"Whether you're on one side or the other side of this issue, whether it's toxic or

not, I'm hearing enough that it seems like its toxic. And for those that say maybe it's not toxic, well, then that's not good enough for me as an argument."

He spoke about the importance of "not feeling like you're getting contaminated by things on your clothes or your lungs and so forth" and wanting his daughter to have the benefits of the protection from second hand smoke in public places.

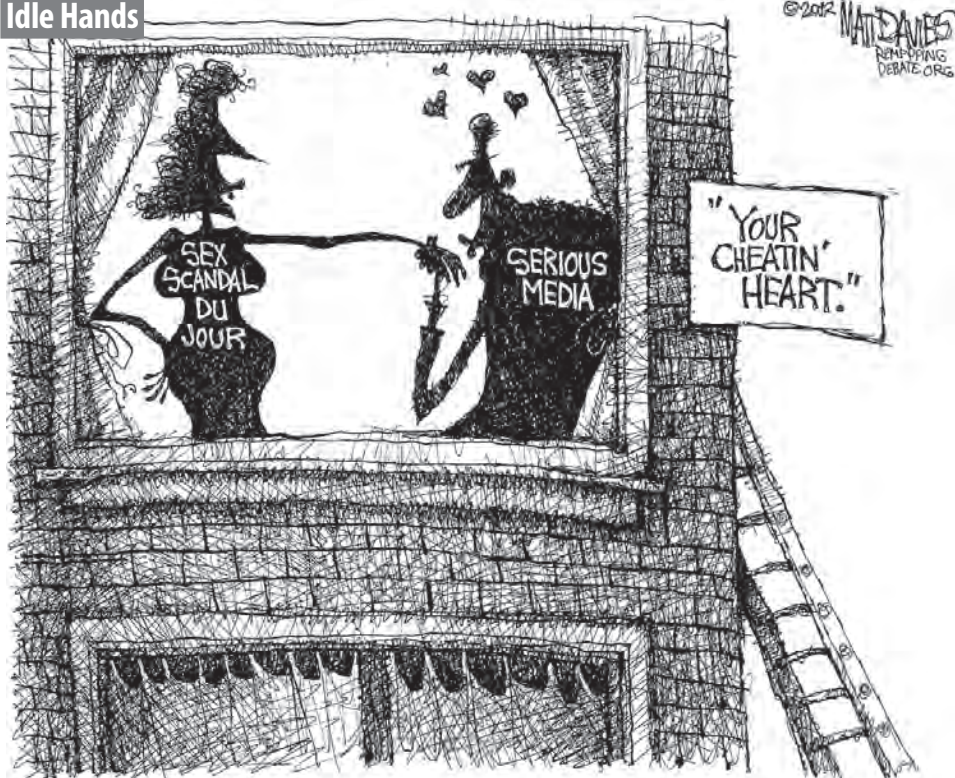
As for the supposed benefit of allowing a smoker to kick their habit, there are no studies that establish that e-cigarettes are an effective way to stop smoking, as Yee himself would have heard at both hearings.

Finally, he quite clearly accepted the fact that Big Tobacco was marketing to children, saying "The whole issue of advertising and targeting children, we know other industries have done that."

As I listened to Yee at the Rules Committee criticize the e-cigarette industry's attempts to target children in its marketing, but never mention that telling fact at the vape lounge hearing or in the interview, I couldn't help but think of my own son, who attended Commodore Sloat and Aptos Middle School, and passed by the location where a vape lounge will now be open for business. Glad he graduated before Norman Yee became my supervisor. Both of these hearings can be viewed at sfgovtv.org.

Ms. Theoharis has served as former president of the Planning Commission, West of Twin Peaks Central Council and the Westwood Park Association

Idle Hands



My 2¢ • Will Durst © 2015

BOLTING COLTS & WAGGING NAGS



"And They're Almost Off." Yes, the entrance to the 2016 Presidential Derby has officially been flung open wider than the gap between George Bernard Shaw and Pee Wee Herman. Backstage at the Bolshoi Ballet and the snack bar adjacent to the Professional Bowlers Association Hall of Fame gift shop. Horseshoes and mirrors.

At the Republican Leadership Summit in New Hampshire, various contenders staggered out to the starting gate testing the footing of the track with cries of trainers still ringing in their ears: "the race may be many things, but it is not a sprint. A marathon. A steeplechase. A twisted cross-country endurance run on a course designed by masochists, fueled by obscene amounts of cash and overseen by clowns and contortionists. But not a sprint."

Establishing position on the far outside rail, Doctor Senator Indian Chief Rand Paul, followed in the hoof prints of Ted Cruz by announcing his candidacy for the GOP nomination wearing the red, white and blue silks of the Tea Party. And visually, the race promises to get awfully giddy with those colors.

Paul tied his campaign to defeating Congress. Which is odd, since he is a member. Track touts might describe this attack as a patriotic form of self-loathing. But in his stable, this is referred to as expedient positioning. AKA: sucking up to the punters.

Rand Paul, son of Ron Paul, not RuPaul, has chosen the slogan, "Defeat the Washington Machine. Unleash the American Dream," at least 11 syllables too long for your typical spectator's attention span. Might as well be a racing form printed in Greek.

From a barn in the deep wrinkled shadows of America's dangling appendage comes Florida Senator Marco Rubio, who claims to be running as the young whipper-snapping colt come to steal the reins of government back from those old nags who refuse to throw off the saddle. No names. (Jeb and Hillary)

The 43 year old son of Cuban immigrants is camera-ready but untested, with

the gravitas of dandelion fuzz. And viewed as vulnerable from his right after suggesting an immigration compromise, which ticked off hardliners in the Party-of-No so badly, they nearly dropped a wreath of burning crosses. The good news for Rubio is he doesn't have to worry about peaking too early.

Nosing around the paddock contemplating a stretch run are almost 20 more potential entrants including a gaggle of governors, a female CEO, and some guy with aerodynamic hair. Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker, whose both sire and mare are first-time breeders, the Koch Brothers, is not only chomping at the bit but also taking nips at field favorites.

Donald Trump has officially announced plans to form an exploratory committee that will investigate the possibility of him considering a run. Why? Because America needs decisive leadership, that's why. The publicity-seeking dandy donkey vows to make a decision in June or July, or whenever NBC decides to premiere the new edition of his silly reality show.

In the other closely watched contest, the Democratic Sweepstakes, the only entree so far is that old warhorse, Hillary Clinton, who could very well win in a walk. But don't lose track of long shot Bernie Sanders who looks to be setting up a table near the final stretch, piled high with monkey wrenches and whips.

Will Durst is an award-winning, nationally acclaimed political comic. Go to willdurst.com for info about the documentary film, "3 Still Standing" and calendar listings that feature future appearances such as his new one-man show, "BoomeRaging: From LSD to OMG".

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PO Box 27176, SF 94127 • 415 517-6331

Publisher: Mitch Bull

mitch@westsideobserver.com

Editor: Doug Comstock

editor@westsideobserver.com

Ad Sales • Mitch Bull

Contributors: Brian Browne, Mitch Bull, Julie Casson, Matt Davies, Will Durst, John Farrell, Sharone Franzen, Tony Hall, Kathy Howard, Flora Lynn Isaacson, Jack Kaye, Dr. Derek Kerr, Dr. Carol Kocivar, Quentin Kopp, Maya Lakach, Steve Lawrence, Rafael Mandelman, Anise J. Matteson, Barbara Meskunas, Brandon Miller, Don Lee Miller, Patrick Monette-Shaw, Sergio Nibbi, Dr. Maria Rivero, Anita Theoharis, George Wooding. Photos: Luke Thomas, Doug Comstock, Nenita Quijano

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Letters to the Editor

Re: Mayor's Housing Scam, (Apr. 2015).

The City needs units which will house people who work in a variety of professions in both the public and private a sector. We need housing which is affordable to those who will never have stock options or IPO money.

I believe that San Franciscans would whole-heartily support new housing if the housing were rented at prices which reflect wages of workers in the private and public sector across the professional spectrum. For instance, if a development in which all the units were for rent to households with gross incomes of \$30,000-\$200,000 per year, I think people would not only approve the projects but cheer them on.

We are in an unprecedented period of income inequality and will need creative and thoughtful solutions to solve our housing crisis. If we want to preserve San Francisco's middle class and its professional diversity, we need to think about housing as an extension of our public resources. For developers, housing is a money making endeavor. For the City, housing is a public resource.

“It would be amazing if one of the City's 20 billionaires pitched in toward housing or if Apple, Facebook, or Google paid something to help fight off the displacement their workforce is causing...”

The City should use its bond money to leverage more financing for housing. I would like to see different scenarios of how the bond money could be used as a “down payment” to secure financing for City owned and developed rental units for households with gross incomes between \$30,000-\$200,000 per year. Perhaps the City could work out financing with private investors and take advantage of our historically low interest rates; the City could use the 250 million dollar bond to raise an additional 750 million dollars which would be a billion dollars toward the building of middle class rental units.

City developed units could incorporate public amenities such as indoor and outdoor recreational areas, day-care centers, offices for non-profits, and possibly schools, as our schools already seem to be at capacity.

The City could work with some of the large and highly profitable companies such as Apple, Google, and Facebook to develop housing that would not only house some of their work force but also other working professionals who do not have the same access to high salaries as their workers. These companies are all highly profitable and cash flush. Their work force lives in San Francisco and has been displacing lower-wage workers. These companies have not worked with the City to establish a plan to house their work force and to create an inventive civic partnership.

These companies could easily finance these developments and the City could pay them back through rents received from middle class workers. The City would own their units and the companies would own their units. If these companies ran a loss because the payments made by the City were low, they would receive a tax benefit

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Scoring Our Utilities (Cont. from p. 6)

day) is \$93.25 per month for both water and sewer.)

At this time of year customers who receive bills get a Scorecard which scores SFPUC. This is to hold the public utility accountable. (San Francisco Public Utilities Commission provides water and sewer service, electricity now to public places, and soon to some private homes and businesses too.)

Overall, the latest Scorecard score for SFPUC is a B; good, but not excellent. For “cost of service.” C+. For average bill, A (because the average bill for a San Francisco household is less than that for an average Californian, shown as \$165 per month for water, sewer and electricity, versus \$194 for the average Californian). For customer service, B. For preventative maintenance, B-. For environmental stewardship, surprisingly, B-.

Scores are provided by the Controller, based on various metrics adopted by SFPUC. There is much wrapped up in the letter score. For example, cost of water *should* be cheap. The Raker Act of 1913 gave San Francisco an amazing gift. Still benefiting from sympathy for the awful earthquake of 1906, and fire that burned down the city for lack of water, Congress allowed SF to take water from Yosemite parkland in the high Sierras, from a watershed pure and natural, and protected in perpetuity, at a nominal cost.

Without the marketplace to provide correction, scorecards such as that provided by SFPUC are perhaps some assurance that costs do not grow too unreasonable. The Commission itself is another check. But commissioners are political people appointed politically; naturally they help city officials distribute millions to this and that interest group for numerous good causes. (Years ago they simply turned money over to the General Fund for city Supervisors to spend as they pleased, but citizens rose up and put a stop to that.)

The one big check that SFPUC lacks concerns bond spending. Most city bond spending gets run through voters, who can turn thumbs down. Voters rarely do, especially for schools, libraries or parks, but they can. SFPUC need not run bond spending by voters. That does increase its spending. For example, back in 2002 the plan was to spend \$4.4 billion upgrading water and sewer capital assets. Today those upgrades are to cost \$11.7 billion. Where there's an open checkbook....

But, hey, at least the bill payer receives a scorecard.

Steve Lawrence is a Westside resident and SF Public Utility Commission stalwart. Feedback: lawrence@westsideobserver.com

Are You A Stakeholder In Your Park?

By Kathy Howard

The SF Recreation and Park Department (RPD) is in the process of finalizing its 2015 Strategic Plan for the entire RPD and all of its facilities, a process begun over 20 months ago. Did you know about this process? Have you been asked your opinion? Probably not — but others more powerful and well-connected than yourself have already been enlisted to set the direction of the Plan. *You can change this.*



Background on the Strategic Plan Process

In early September of 2013, RPD began updating its 5-year Strategic Plan. This Plan is required by the City Charter to “establish or reaffirm the mission, vision, goals and objectives for the Department... [and] ... will be used to guide the Department's work for the next five years.” Even though Charter Section 16.107 requires annual updates to the Strategic Plan, RPD has not done so since 2003.

For the 2015 Strategic Plan, RPD has employed the services of Harvard Business School Community Partners (HBS), a pro-bono alumni organization. A contract was signed in November 2013, and HBS started work.

Over the last year, HBS has interviewed not only members of RPD staff and line workers but also members of the outside community, whom they described as “External Contributors.”

Who is a “qualified stakeholder?”

A report from HBS to RPD, dated December 1, 2014, obtained under the Sunshine laws, lists the external contributors interviewed. The report states, “The following relevant, interested and highly qualified stakeholders were interviewed by Community Partners. Their valuable input and ideas helped to shape the Draft Plan.”

The list of “highly qualified stakeholders” to interview was provided by RPD to HBS. Who are these 22 people asked to shape the policy for your parks?

There are six people from City Departments or City Commissions - including Supervisor Wiener as the only Supervisor; 10 members of non-profits closely aligned with RPD, including three people

playgrounds. Attendees were asked to submit ideas for playground programs. Some great proposals were made, and people were enthusiastic about having a say in their playground design.

Imagine how much more exciting and creative it could have been to revise the Strategic Plan if RPD had gone out to the general public *first* and asked what they would like to see, and, only after RPD knew what the public wanted, then gone to its “partners” and asked them to support what the public wants.

The missing public meetings

The SF City Charter states: “Prior to the adoption of each five-year plan, the Department shall conduct at least five hearings in locations distributed geographically throughout the City to receive and to consider the public's comments upon the plan. The Commission shall ensure that at least two of these hearings are held in the evenings or on weekends for the public's convenience.”

To date, we have been able to learn of RPD planning to hold only two hearings. The first duly-noticed public meeting on the Strategic Plan will be at PROSAC on May 5th. At some date in the future, the Plan will be sent to the RPD Commission. But it is common knowledge that once a draft policy is sent to the RPD Commission, it is already cast in stone.

You, too, can be a “stakeholder”

Donors and political operatives should not shape what happens to our parks, clubhouses, and recreation programs. Let RPD know that they must first go city-wide and ask people what they want. Only after that is done, should RPD go back to its

“Prior to the adoption of each five-year plan, the Department shall conduct at least five hearings in locations distributed geographically throughout the City to receive and to consider the public's comments upon the plan. The Commission shall ensure that at least two of these hearings are held in the evenings or on weekends for the public's convenience.”

from the Trust for Public Land, a major donor to RPD; and two foundations — the billionaire-funded City Fields Foundation, source of funding for artificial turf fields and political muscle for RPD — and the dot-com Zynga Foundation.

The “environmental community” is listed as consulted, but we could not find any organization or individual in that category who was actually interviewed.

Also listed is one person on PROSAC, the Park, Recreation and Open Space Advisory Committee, and two people from neighborhood parks groups - Buena Vista Park and Dolores Park - both in Supervisor Wiener's district.

Who was left out?

No other individual park groups were selected. There are no “highly qualified stakeholders” listed from the western part of San Francisco.

SPUR was interviewed, but the West of Twin Peaks Central Council was not. Neither were groups such as SPEAK, which for years has represented the Outer Sunset and Parkside.

The SF Chamber of Commerce was consulted, but the city-wide Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods was ignored.

Rec and Park can do better

Top-down planning with limited public input has been typical of RPD in the past, but recently they proved they can do better. For instance, in February RPD held a public meeting in the Mission about planning

“partners” and obtain support for what the people of San Francisco have decided they want to see happen in their parks.

Write to the President of the Recreation and Park Commission and ask that RPD actively engage the general public in city-wide meetings to inform the creation of the RPD Strategic Plan.

Address your concerns to: Recpark.commission@sfgov.org.

We are all stakeholders in our parks — but if we do not participate in the decision-making process, we will lose our chance to direct the future of what happens to our playgrounds, our clubhouses and our parks.

Katherine Howard, ASLA, Landscape Architect, Golden Gate Park Preservation Alliance, www.goldengateparkpreservation.org

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Catholicism Anyone?

By Former Supervisor Tony Hall

There is nothing like the total lack of compassion, forgiveness, humility, or loyalty when it comes to the 100 or so supermarket Catholics that lent their names to the disgraceful appeal to Pope Francis to replace Archbishop Cordileone that was so contritely displayed in a full page ad in the *Chronicle* on April 16th.

Minor mistakes might have been made by a few priests under the Archbishop's watch; however, I do not agree with the abundance of misrepresentation regarding those mistakes as depicted in the ad, or the public calls for the Archbishop's replacement as the signers are demanding.

For example, I do not think that the distribution of information that addresses abortion, sodomy, masturbation, and sex outside of marriage are appropriate issues to present to students in grades 2 through 6. Thankfully, vigilant teachers intercepted most of the literature before being received. Likewise, the issue of altar girl servers being eliminated in that same parish is a questionable move in this day of inclusion. These two incidences occurred in only one parish out of 90-plus parishes in the entire SF Archdiocese.

As to the issue of the Archbishop's directive to educators and staff in Catholic High Schools to adhere to a morality code suitable to a Catholic education, I think

satisfy their own agenda. There is always the possibility that mistakes will be made by any new Archbishop, and a few priests under his responsibility, but that is no justification to throw the baby out with the bathwater. Real committed Catholics employ the virtues of patience and forgiveness, and try to work collaboratively to better a situation. They don't single out, judge, and condemn. They are fully aware that the Church is a Theocracy, not a democracy, nor an oligarchy, and if they are believers, they try to work within that framework.

The Archbishop has accomplished much in a short period of time. He has restructured a troubled seminary. He has been the inspiration behind the rebirth of a successful pro-life movement. He is trying to make Catholicism, and especially marriage and the family, more meaningful and relevant in today's society. His many visits to the parishes have been very well

I am sure that many of the people who signed are well-intentioned, but for those who want a church designed around their own wishes, it would seem to me that other churches already exist that might better suit their needs.

his intention was probably not only warranted, but long over-due in addressing and improving the attributes of a quality Catholic education. The ad characterizes the Archbishop's directive as a prosecutorial and mean-spirited effort to violate individual consciences and California labor laws. What a nonsensical overstatement! I believe that after the release of his directive, there was considerable rewording, and releases issued to clarify, instruct, and minimize offending anyone. Could it be that the signers of the ad are guilty of the same insensitivity of that which they accuse the Archbishop?

There are over 400,000 Catholics and 90 parishes in the Bay Area that comprise the San Francisco Archdiocese. Just who do these signers of the ad think they are to characterize themselves as representing practicing and committed Catholics? Do they really think that they represent the silent majority and daily faithful of some 399,900 other Catholics, who believe that a person who is striving to do God's work should be given benefit of the doubt and worked with to correct what appears to be human mistakes? The self-importance that the signers of the ad exude, in assuming that they know what's best for all of us, is truly astonishing.

Lets face it, being an outsider appointed to shepherd the San Francisco Archdiocese is a very, very difficult assignment. The task to lead Catholics and encourage Catholic values in today's San Francisco is indeed daunting, and there are people that want the religion to change to

received. There are many more examples, but that is not the purpose of this article.

I personally know a good number of the people who signed their name to the ad. I commend them for their volunteerism and fundraising efforts throughout the years to support the Archdiocese. However, many of the signers would be well-advised to rethink their strategy at this time and not let their money, social status, or perceived influence deceive them into thinking that they are more important to the entire Catholic community than they really are. Money, social status, and influence go hand in hand with today's politics, but they do not define the true person of faith, or the Catholic Church.

Christianity, and in particular the Catholic Church, as one of the last bastions of traditional family values, is very much under attack in today's world. Ads like the one displayed in the *Chronicle* only serve a different agenda. I am sure that many of the people who signed are well-intentioned, but for those who want a church designed around their own wishes, it would seem to me that other churches already exist that might better suit their needs.

As a practicing Catholic, these signers do not represent me, nor do I think they represent the vast majority of Bay Area Catholics who are willing to give the Archbishop a break before they crucify him.

Tony Hall served twice as Supervisor for District 7. Articles written by Tony Hall can be accessed on the Internet at tonyhallarchives.wordpress.com



Infrastructure Repairs (Cont. from p. 1)

a field office in 2011 in the West Portal neighborhood.

The current West Portal road work will be performed in several phases over a 16-month duration. Work to be performed includes:

- water main installation on West Portal Ave.
- sewer main work on West Portal Ave between 14th Ave and 15th Ave at the intersection of West Portal Ave and Ulloa St
- bulb-out installations on West Portal Ave at Vicente
- new curb ramps along the project limits
- paving two parking lots within the project limits
- repaving along muni tracks
- roadway resurfacing on West Portal Ave

Street parking will not always be available on blocks during construction work hours which are 9am-4pm, Monday-Friday and 8am-4pm on weekends. Other anticipated problems will be a high level of noise, Dust and traffic congestion.

"Nobody wants to have the street in front of their business torn up, but this is infrastructure and it needs to be done. It seems like the construction crew is doing their best to keep the project moving quickly which is great because it mitigates our lost business. We had to close our door, which is usually open, to keep out the dirt and noise and our sales declined from 20%-30% on those days. Luckily, most of our customers realized it wasn't that inconvenient to shop on West Portal," said Matt Rogers, owner of Papenhausen Hardware, located at 32 West Portal Ave.

Elliot Wagner, The owner of Dimitra's Skin Care & MediSpa, 324 West Portal Ave. said "There seems to a giant disconnect between what the DPW led businesses to

believe would be a very orderly progression of work that would be done one block at a time vs what is currently taking place. Other than the overall dates of Apr 2015 - July 2015, West Portal businesses really didn't get specific dates of when each segment of the project would be done. I guess the DPW are independently doing some of the pieces of the project, like replacing the water lines that run on my side of West Portal right now. Currently, they have posted No Parking signs, running from April 13th -May 4th & some from April 24th - April 27th."

"For many businesses, construction noise is a disaster (imagine getting a relaxing massage or facial, and suddenly you are blasted away by the extreme racket of jack hammers). There is a high possibility that the DPW could put me out of business. At several of the WPA meetings, I asked that the really noisy work be done from 7-10 am, before most businesses open. Businesses were told by the contractor 'our concerns would be taken under advisement.' It seems the parking and use of construction equipment was the DPW's primary objective."

"The Construction Management team is sensitive to the needs of the community and is actively working with the merchants and residents to ensure project success by including them in the partnering process and construction meetings both before and during construction," Najim Dadasi, the DPW Public Affairs Officer said.

"Some of the issues we have been able to mitigate are the parking challenges. We agreed to leave open both public parking lots at Ulloa and Claremont and West Portal and 14th Ave during construction. We will pave these lots at the end of the project. Additionally the contractor will only work on one side of the street at a time, utilizing only the space that is needed

Cont. p. 15

Renewed Controls On Massage Parlors?

All massage establishments will have to have a Department of Public Health establishment permit and all new massage establishments will have to receive Conditional Use approval with certain exceptions if Supervisor Tang's legislation returning land use and regulatory controls over massage establishments to the city's jurisdiction. This will allow neighborhood notification and input of their opening.

If you would like to send letters or emails of support for the legislation, please send them to the members of the Land Use & Transportation Committee noting your support of Files 141302 and 141303.

Parkmerced Terminates 32 Janitors and Handymen

SEIU USWW janitors and handymen went on the picket line on Tuesday April 14, at Parkmerced management brought in a new contractor who refused to allow them to continue their jobs. Thirty two workers were terminated — many have worked for over 20 years at the large housing project. Replacement workers are being brought into the complex to take their jobs. Many residents of Parkmerced have voiced their support for the workers. www.youtube.com/watch?v=sZ-YO717R0E&feature=youtu.be

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Money Matters By Brandon Miller

Keeping an Eye on Interest Rates

The Federal Reserve and the monetary policy it pursues is always a matter of interest to investors. The level of intrigue has been particularly acute this year because of growing speculation that the Fed is likely to boost the Fed Funds rate, a short-term interest rate it controls directly, for the first time since 2006.

This creates challenges for investors who may have pursued one investment strategy in a period of declining or stable interest rates. A different approach might be required if the interest rate environment shifts to one where rates trend higher.

Assessing bond market risk today

Interest rate risk is always a concern for bond investors, but especially when rates are as low as they are today. Rising interest rates may seem beneficial to fixed income investors who would like to earn higher yields on their savings, but there is a downside. When interest rates rise, the value of bonds already in the market (and potentially held in your portfolio or bond mutual fund) declines. These price declines occur as the bond yields rise to reflect the increase in interest rates. In the long run, the bonds will mature at par, or 100% of their initial value, but in the short run, investors may see a drop in investment values.

For several years, there's been significant speculation among market analysts that the interest rate environment was due for a change. Consider it from an historical perspective using the yield on the 10-year U.S. Treasury note at constant maturity as a benchmark¹:

The yield peaked at 15.84 percent in September 1981.

Over the next 30 years, yields moved lower, eventually hitting a low of 1.43 percent in July, 2012.

For the last three years, yields have fluctuated in a fairly wide range, from 1.68 percent to 3.04 percent as investors have digested economic data and Federal Reserve commentaries.

At these current low levels, the general consensus is that rates are likely to move higher, meaning bond portfolios might be at risk of losing value in the near term.

A potential residual effect on stocks

The impact of rising interest rates on the equity market is typically less direct than it is on the bond market. At times in the past when interest rates have moved higher, it has dampened returns in the stock market. There could be a few reasons for this. With rates moving higher, some investors think bonds are more attractive than stocks. Also, higher interest rates could potentially dampen borrowing activity, and even contribute to a slowdown in business activity. Of course, there are many other factors that can also affect stocks and businesses besides interest rate movements. Regardless of what happens with rates, your age and investment time horizon have a lot to do with how you make investment decisions. Make sure these decisions are in the long-term interests of achieving your financial objectives. Positioning for a change

If past market cycles are any guide, it is inevitable that at some point, interest rates will begin to move higher. The biggest questions are when it will start, and how quickly and dramatic the increase will be. While it may not be possible to eliminate all risk from the impact of rising rates, investors should exercise some caution. Now is a good time to consult with a financial professional about how to prepare for potential changes in the investment landscape that would occur if interest rates begin to move higher.

Brandon Miller, CFP is a financial consultant at Brio Financial Group, A Private Wealth Advisory Practice of Ameriprise Financial Inc. in San Francisco, specializing in helping LGBT individuals and families plan and achieve their financial goals



Seven Surprising Boosts to Your Health

By Sharone Franzen, LAc



There are times when following conventional health wisdom doesn't seem to help us reach our fitness or nutritional goals. Commonly accepted ideas can be too generalized or inaccurate to serve our needs. If you've run into obstacles to experiencing optimal health, consider paring down your habits. Oftentimes what you *don't* do is just as important as what you *do*.

1. **Cancel your gym membership.** OK – not if you just *love* going to the gym. But if you drag your feet every time you go, or work out there because you think you “should,” then perhaps your body would be better served doing something else. Take a walk in your neighborhood, hike with friends, bike with your kids – all of these activities are just as good exercise as half an hour on the treadmill, or doing Zumba. If you enjoy doing something, you will find yourself doing it more often.

2. **Stop dieting.** Low-calorie diets will, over time, lower your metabolic rate, which in turn will make it very difficult to lose weight or maintain a healthy weight. Instead of counting calories, use the Okinawan principle of *hara hachi bu*: eat each meal until you feel about 80% full. This requires you to check in with yourself while you're eating, which makes it nearly impossible to overstuff yourself. The other 20% of feeling full will come in a few minutes, when receptors in the stomach have a chance to “catch up” to how much food you've consumed. Neither eating too little nor too much feels good; the Goldilocks principle of “just right” should be the aim of each meal.

3. **Eat fat.** The modern idea that eating fat will make one fat has proven to be overly simplistic and possibly mistaken. It's now thought that the prevalence of low-fat dairy products may be linked to the rise in childhood diabetes, and studies on adults have shown a *decrease* in the risk of obesity when diets include full-fat rather than low-fat or non-fat foods. As for harmful trans-fats, if you are not eating many packaged foods, you are already avoiding them to a large degree. Low-fat and non-fat dairy products are made up of sugars and little

else; eating the full-fat versions of these foods will help you feel satiated, and help your body absorb fat-soluble vitamins. And be sure find the best source of animal fats: those from pasture-raised animals are full of nutrients that are missing from those raised on corn. Make sure that your foods are minimally processed, and you can enjoy that cultured butter made from pastured cow's milk.

4. **Throw out your vitamins.** If the label on your multi-vitamin says “Vitamin X as an-unpronounceable-chemical,” it is likely just giving you very yellow and expensive urine. These types of vitamin pills are pieces of molecules, rather than the biological complexes that naturally occur in food. They may make you feel great for the first few days of taking them, but after that you're left with a feeling not unlike the Emperor with his new clothes (“Well... I *think* they're working ...”). Vitamins and supplements should make a noticeable difference in the way you feel. If they don't, they are not beneficial, despite what the product label claims. Look for a multi-vitamin that reads: “Vitamin X *from* a-whole-food source;” these will raise your energy levels and boost your immunity over the long-term.

5. **Restore the salt shaker.** The caveat: fill it with pink or grey salt. White salt is highly processed, stripped of several of its natural minerals. Your body has difficulty absorbing this type of salt, thus the myriad health issues associated with a “high sodium” diet. Almost all processed foods are made with this type of salt. On the other hand, colored salts retain their natural mineral content; your body knows what to do with these, and you'll feel nourished

Cont. p. 15

Laguna Honda (Cont. from p. 2)

the harmful side-effects of anti-psychotic medications; keeping spoiled/outdated food in refrigerators; not washing hands after handling soiled equipment; speaking “a non-English language” around patients; causing a resident to soil his diaper by delaying 30 minutes to answer his calls; over-filling the stomach of a tube-fed patient and causing pneumonia; and failing to report patient-to-patient physical abuse to the State, and not knowing that such reports are legally required.

Although these deficiencies were considered minor, causing “minimal

harm” and affecting “few” residents, they exceeded the averages for California and US nursing homes. Therefore, LHH's 2014 Health Inspection score plunged “below average” – to 2 stars. That triggered LHH's fall from 5 to 4 stars overall. It could have been worse. LHH's Fire Safety Inspection found 7 deficiencies. Since such lapses aren't logged in the star-rating system, LHH got a good deal in being down-graded to “above average”.

Dr. Maria Rivero and Dr. Derek Kerr were senior physicians at Laguna Honda Hospital where they repeatedly exposed wrongdoing by the Department of Public Health. Contact: DerekOnVanNess@aol.com



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Not all crimes are reported in the weekly reports. Reports below are partial excerpts from www.taraval.org



San Francisco police are alerting residents of an ongoing series of scams resulting in financial loss to unsuspecting victims. The scam occurs when one suspect approaches a victim who is always alone. The suspect asks for directions and convinces the victim to assist him in getting to the destination. While en-route, the suspect mentions a letter regarding an inheritance which requires the suspect to donate a large sum of money, elicits help from the victim to distribute these charitable donations. The main suspect brings in a second suspect to make the victim feel more comfortable with the situation. Both suspects place a roll of what appears to be money into a “sacred cloth” which the second suspect takes to another location.

The suspect then convinces the victim to present, “Good Faith” money in order to prove that the involved parties have their own money and will not steal the alleged inheritance money intended for “charity” to show that the victim is trustworthy. He accompanies the victim to his/her bank. When the victim returns, the suspect takes the victim’s cash and one of the supposed money rolls and wraps them in a “sacred cloth” and places it in the victim’s car trunk. The suspect tells the victim to drive around the block as a “measure of trust” and to not look at the money right away. The victim later looks in the trunk only to discover rolled up newspaper, wrapped in a bandana and that the suspects have fled.

The suspects older, African American males, between the ages of 40 to 65 years of age. They are typically dressed in slacks and a jacket. In most cases the first suspect had some sort of accent, and claimed to be from South Africa.

- **Use caution when approached by any strangers under these described circumstances.**
- **Do not speak to strangers offering good fortune or unusual offers.**
- **Do not give money or valuables to strangers that are offering you a deal too good to be true.**

If approached by any of these suspects with similar inquiries, please call 911.

Mon – Apr 6
Defrauding Innkeeper
3:40 pm / 2600 46th Ave
A man walked into Taraval Station to report a fraud. He had two customers who attempted to pay for one accommodation with declined credit cards. One of the customers then gave him a counterfeit bill & then fled.
Suspect #1 – White female :: 40-42 years :: 5’4” tall :: 120 lbs :: black hair
Suspect #2 – male :: 44 years :: 5’10” tall :: 120 lbs :: brown hair :: brown eyes
Assault
6:37 pm / 3600 Taraval St
Officers responded to a report of an assault. A store clerk told skateboarders to stop riding in the store. An argument ensued that involved five skateboarders & the clerk. One of the skateboarders hit the clerk causing an injury. They then fled the store.
Suspect #1 Black male :: 15-20 years :: 6’1” tall :: 170 lbs :: LSW red sweater, khaki pants, on skateboard
Suspect #2 Black male :: 15-20 years :: 6’0” tall :: 190 lbs :: long braided brown

hair :: LSW black T shirt, black jeans, on skateboard
Suspect #3 Black male :: 15-20 years :: 5’6” tall :: 150 lbs :: black hair :: LSW black T shirt, brown jeans
Suspect #4 White male :: 15-20 years :: 6’0” tall :: 175 lbs :: blond hair :: brown eyes :: LSW green sweatshirt, on skateboard
Suspect #5 Hispanic male :: 15-20 years :: 5’2” tall :: 140 lbs :: LSW on skateboard
Fraud
8:17 pm / 1600 23rd Ave
An unknown suspect used a man’s identity to file a income tax return. Therefore the man’s tax return was rejected.

Fraud
3:48 pm / 2300 32nd Ave
A man tried to use his credit card, it was declined. He called the credit card carrier -an unknown suspect used his credit information to make unauthorized purchases.

Tue - Apr. 6
Robbery-Arrested
10:24 am / 1700 Noriega St
A suspect entered a store, grabbed merchandise & exited without paying, taunting a store employee to take the merchandise back. When the suspect was told to never return to the store, the suspect pulled out a knife & ran toward the employee threatening to “get” him. The employee sought shelter in the store. The suspect then fled taunting the employee to “Call the cops!” Officers found the suspect & arrested him.

Assault
10:54 pm / Junipero Serra Blvd & Holloway
A man was driving a vehicle with a front seat passenger when a suspect vehicle pulled-up next to him at a stop, sprayed them with the chemical through an open window. He fled in his vehicle. The victim drove to a hospital for treatment.
Suspect – White male
Vehicle – gray 2003 Nissan Sentra

Wed - Apr 8
Assault with Weapon-Burglary
11:12 am / 600 Lakeview Ave
A man went to check on a neighbor’s home when he saw an entry gate was pried open and two suspects attempting to enter a residential door. Suspect #1 & the man briefly struggled over the crowbar. Both suspects fled in a getaway vehicle
Suspect #1 – Black male :: 18-20 years :: 5’5” tall :: medium build :: LSW light blue hooded sweatshirt, denim pants, carried yellow crowbar
Suspect #2 – Black male :: 18-20 years :: 5’2” tall :: medium build
Vehicle – black 2013 Chevrolet Impala

Thu - Apr 9
Possession of Controlled Substance-Possession of Lost or Stolen Cards-Arrested
2:46 am / 20th Ave & Irving St
Officers stopped a vehicle for not having a license plate & for making a turn without a proper signal. Officers saw drug paraphernalia in plain sight. A search of the vehicle revealed controlled substances & credit/debit cards that did not belong to the driver. The driver was arrested.

Robbery-Burglary-False Imprisonment
2:50 pm / 100 Juan Bautista Cir
Three suspects gained entry into the victims’ home by knocking on the door & then hitting one occupant who answered. Other occupants fled. One suspect demanded they return because he had a gun although no weapon was seen. One of the occupants picked up a kitchen knife & yelled at the suspects to leave. The suspects then fled.
Suspect #1 – Black male :: 20-25 years ::

6’4” tall :: 225 lbs :: black hair :: athletic build :: LSW light purple beanie , black hoodie, dark facial hair with goatee, black backpack
Suspect #2 – Hispanic male :: 25 years :: 5’9” tall :: 150 lbs :: brown hair :: brown eyes :: LSW white T shirt with black sleeves, black sweatpants.
Suspect #3 – Black male :: 20-25 years

Fri - Apr 10
Homicide
4:16 am / 1600 45th Ave
Officers responded to a report of an unresponsive man on the ground. The unresponsive man showed signs of having been stabbed. Paramedics declared him deceased at the scene.

Theft
5:16 pm / Victoria St & Garfield St
A woman waited at a bus stop when a vehicle pulled up. An occupant approached the woman, & asked for her personal belongings. She complied & the suspect fled.
Suspect – Hispanic male :: 24-25 years :: 5’8” tall :: 180 lbs :: short black hair :: brown eyes :: LSW dark blue jacket, dark colored pants
Vehicle – black Toyota Prius 4 door sedan

Wed - Apr 15
Robbery
1:49 am / 2000 19th Ave
Robbery victim answered a door bell & was confronted by a suspect who demanded money. The victim surrendered his bank card. The suspect then hit the victim & fled. Officers detained a person matching the suspect’s description. However the victim refused to identify the person.
Suspect – Black male :: 5’10” tall :: 190 lbs :: short black hair :: LSW white T shirt, gray sweatpants, red & white Nike tennis shoes
Driving Under the Influence-Arrested
2:53 am / 43rd Ave & Quintara St
A running vehicle was stopped in an intersection with its headlights on. The driver was sleeping behind the wheel. He was arrested for driving under the influence.

Burglary-Arrest
9:04 am / 1800 47th Ave
A suspect was seen picking the lock of a front gate by the home’s occupant. Officers detained the suspect. The victim placed the suspect under citizen’s arrest for burglary.

Robbery
12:00 pm / 1000 Ocean Ave
Three people were approached by two suspects. Suspect #1 demanded money, claiming he had a gun. The three people recognized him as a fellow student, but surrendered money. Suspects fled.
Suspect #1 – Black male :: 13 years :: 5’0” tall :: 100 lbs :: black hair :: brown eyes
Suspect #2 – Black male :: 11 years :: 5’0” tall :: 90 lbs :: black hair :: brown eyes
Elder Abuse
Reported 1:51 pm / 1500 20th Ave
Adult Protective Services reported a caregiver convinced an elderly victim–in her care, to pay her extra money on the side. As an employee of a caretaking service & was already being paid as an employee.

Battery
Reported 1:53 pm / Ocean Ave
A woman bumped into a fellow passenger while riding a MUNI bus. The passenger demanded an apology & the woman refused. The passenger hit her & then exited at the next stop.
Suspect – Black female :: 40-45 years :: 5’4” tall :: 110 lbs :: black hair :: LSW blue denim shirt, wearing square black backpack
Theft from Vehicle-Fraud

2:58 pm / Ulloa St & Laguna Honda Blvd
A woman left her vehicle locked & unattended. Upon return she saw her driver side window smashed & her belongings missing. An unknown suspect used her credit card—one of the missing belongings.
Threat
4:10 pm / 3100 Noriega St
A man walked into a store to return items he purchased. An employee refused & threatened him with a bat.
Suspect – White male :: 38-40 years :: 5’11” tall :: 210 lbs :: black hair

Assault
6:35 pm / Sunset Blvd & Vicente St
A man was at a bar with his pet dog when two suspects accused him of not feeding his dog. He left the bar & was walking home when he was hit in the back of the head. He lost consciousness. He believed the suspects who assaulted him were the same people who criticized him at the bar.
Suspect #1 – White male :: brown Hair :: 5’7” tall :: 170 lbs
Suspect #2 – Asian male :: black Hair :: 5’7” tall :: 180 lbs :: Mohawk style hair

Robbery
7:33 pm / 200 Winston Dr
A person was approached outside a fast food restaurant by three suspects. They accused him of being in a gang & beat & robbed him, then fled.
Suspect #1 – Black male :: 15-16 years :: 5’6” tall :: 120 lbs :: black hair :: brown eyes :: LSW black hoodie, camouflaged pants, black shoes
Suspect #2 – Black male :: 15-16 years :: 5’7” tall :: 120 lbs:: black hair :: brown eyes :: LSW blue ‘Northface’ jacket, blue jeans, white ‘Nike’ shoes
Suspect #3 – Black male :: 15-16 years :: 5’6” tall :: 120 lbs :: black hair :: brown eyes

Fri - Apr 17
Battery
6:04 pm / Judah St & 17th Ave
A driver honked at a suspect vehicle for failure to yield. Later, a passenger from the victim vehicle exited to pick up a traffic cone from a roadway. A suspect asked why he was honked at, then hit the passenger numerous times & fled.
Suspect – Black male :: 25-30 years :: 5’7” tall :: 160 lbs :: black hair :: LSW dark colored shirt, blue jeans
Vehicle – red 4 door sedan

Sun - Apr 19
Residential Burglary
6:37 pm / 700 Lawton St
A woman left her garage opened & unattended. When she went to close it, she saw a suspect take her belonging & put it in the back of a pickup truck & fled.
Suspect – White male :: 20-25 years :: 5’7” tall :: 160 lbs :: LSW eyeglasses, dark colored hooded sweatshirt, blue jeans rolled at bottom
Vehicle – dark blue Ford Ranger

Robbery
8:55 pm / 300 Judah St
A suspect walked into a store, pointed a gun at a clerk, & demanded money. The clerk complied. The suspect then fled.
Suspect – Black male :: 20-30 years :: 5’6” tall :: 150 lbs :: LSW gray hooded sweatshirt with black lettering on front, blue jeans

Mon - Apr 20
Fraud
Reported 3:17 pm / 1100 Lincoln Wy
A woman went to a cellular phone store to find out why her phone stopped working.

Cont. p. 17



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Where Friends Meet

**Next Taraval Community Meeting: Tuesday – May 19, 2015, 7pm – 8pm
at Taraval Station Community Room on 2345 24th Avenue**



May 2015

Harding Park is in the spotlight as the **World Match Play Championships**, featuring the 64 top-rated golfers on the men’s tour, was contested last weekend. The course is beautifully manicured and the television coverage highlighted the beauty of San Francisco in its worldwide telecast. On a clear day, the world got a small glimpse of what we are fortunate to see every day.



Bob St. Clair at 49ers Family Day 2009
Photo: BrokenSphere

Hat’s off and raise a toast to San Francisco’s own **Bob St. Clair**, the 49er Hall of Famer and a man, very much larger than life, who passed away last week at the age of 84. St. Clair played on one of the greatest college teams ever, the undefeated University of San Francisco (yes, USF) Dons in 1951. This team could have played for the national championship, but voted to not compete in the post season Bowl game because their two African-American players were forbidden to participate in the bowl, which was in the then-segregated south. My wife and I had the good fortune to meet Bob and his wife at a restaurant in the North Bay, and during our conversation, it came up that I was celebrating a birthday. A little while later, Bob left the counter where we were sitting, and moments later came back with a “Bob St. Clair” trading card, which he signed for me. A class act throughout his life, he didn’t mince words and called it as he saw it.

Warrior’s Fever...we’re now in the lull between playoff series as the **Warriors** swept through New Orleans like a gale off the gulf and took the series 4-0. As they wait for the next opponent (Memphis – most likely) they will have a week off, and now the fans fret over “Will they be rusty?” They certainly will be exciting, as they have energized the Bay Area and delivered a season not seen in these parts for 40 years. Go Dubs...

Take Mom to the Zoo...
Free Admission for Moms Sunday, May 10 at the SF Zoo.

Join **Betty Jean the Bongo**, an African antelope and her calf Pence as the Zoo celebrates Mother’s Day. The Zoo also will host “Baby Loves Disco,” a daytime disco party for kids in the Elinor Friend Playground from 11 am to 3 pm. Lots of other activities will happen on Mom’s special Day at the Zoo including face painting, animation video making and a mini-soccer obstacle course, all free with admission. Check out the info at sfzoo.com



Photo: Marianne Hale

SF Factoids...Last month we ran the fun facts on the English language, and emails poured in from readers with more snippets of the language, however this month, we are highlighting facts about San Francisco (they never taught you in school...) Borrowed from my friends over at the Italian-American Social Club of SF.

• The **crookedest street** in the city is not Lombard Street. Vermont Street between 22nd and 23rd is the crookedest, but doesn’t have the flowers or fanfare.

- The **steepest street**: Filbert, between Hyde and Leavenworth where the angle is 31.5 degrees.
- **Public nudity** was perfectly legal in our fair city until 2013.
- The City has the highest number of **homeless inhabitants** per capita of any major city in the U.S.
- It is illegal to **beat a rug** clean outside of your home in the city.
- **Washington Square Park** at Columbus and Union is basically all contradictions. It’s not actually a square; it has five sides. The statue in the center of the park isn’t even George Washington. It’s Benjamin Franklin.

• The modern **fortune cookie** made with vanilla and butter was invented in San Francisco by Japanese resident Makoto Hagiwara to serve at the Japanese Tea Garden. In the 1980’s there was a challenge filed, claiming that a restaurant owner in Los Angeles had invented the cookie. The case eventually went to court and the court ruled that San Francisco was the rightful home of the folded treat.



• Just imagine this: The U.S. Navy originally planned on painting the Golden Gate Bridge **black with yellow stripes**, but the Bridge District would not allow it. The bridge isn’t named after its color; the Golden Gate is the channel between Marin and San Francisco. The actual color of the bridge is “international orange”.

Finally, “Best Wishes and Get Well Soon”, to the former Publisher of the Observer, Phyllis Sherman, who is recovering from a fractured leg. We wish her a speedy recovery and return to her normal routine.

Do you have an event, a neighborhood fact or just an observation to share? Drop us a line at mitch@westsideobserver.com and share your ideas or just let us know what you think.



SPRING AT THE CLIFF HOUSE

Join us for these Cliff House Weekly Favorites

- Wine Lovers’ Tuesday – Half Priced Bottled Wines*
- Bistro Wednesday Nights – \$28 Three-Course Prix Fixe
- Friday Night Jazz in the Balcony Lounge
- Sunday Champagne Brunch Buffet

*Some restrictions apply. Promotions are not valid on holidays.

The Lands End Lookout

Be sure to visit the Lookout Cafe at the Lands End visitor center. Operated by the Cliff House team, the cafe serves delicious, locally sourced grab-and-go items. The center, operated by the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy, offers educational exhibits, stunning views, and the amazing Lands End Trails.

Open daily from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm Located at Point Lobos and Merrie Way



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Bay to Breakers 2015



Sun May 17 | All Day | SF's Bay to Breakers, the oldest consecutively run annual footrace in the world, a staple since May 1912. Starting at a point near the Bay, a few blocks from The Embarcadero, the 12K race runs west through the city to the Great Highway. The race is a true reflection and celebration of life between the breakers and the Bay. With 110,000 participants, the Bay to Breakers race held on May 18, 1986 was recognized by the Guinness Book of World Records as the world's largest footrace.

Large numbers of participants walk the route behind the runners. Some come to run seriously, others to party. House parties are present along the course. The route is typically dotted with various local bands performing. In February 2009, city officials and race sponsors announced major changes to the race regulations. The regulations included an official ban on floats, alcohol, drunkenness and nudity.

May

CALENDAR

EVERY SUNDAY • FARMERS MARKET

Farmers Market | Every Sun | 9 am–1 pm | Stonestown rear parking lot: at Stonestown Galleria (19th Ave @ Winston).

EVERY TUE • COMPUTER SKILLS

Tue | 1:15-2:45 pm | Come get help with setting up email accounts, word processing and other basic computer related tasks. Most Tuesdays at this time. Ask questions and learn the basics of using a computer! Main Library, 100 Larkin St.

EVERY TUES • QUE SYRAH HAPPY HOUR

Every Tue Happy Hour | 4–8 pm | Que Syrah Wine Bar. Take \$1 off each glass, 10% off each bottle (consumed on site). 230 West Portal Ave 731-7000

EVERY THURS – NIGHTLIFE

Every Thu | 6–10 pm | The Academy of Sciences brings live music, science, mingling and cocktails. GG Park \$12 (\$10 Members). calademy.org/nightlife.

JAZZ FRIDAYS @ THE CLIFF HOUSE

Every Fri | 7–11 pm | The Balcony Lounge at the Cliff House hosts jazz every Fri night. 1 Seal Rock. cliffhouse.com/home/jazz.html.

FRIDAY NIGHTS @ THE DEYOUNG

Every Fri | 5–8:45 pm | Music, poetry, films, dance, tours and lectures. Cafe: special dinner, no-host bar. Art-making children/adults. deYoung Museum, GG Park. deyoung.famsf.org/deyoung/fridays

FRIDAYS @ OFF THE GRID/FT. MASON

Every Fri | DJs 5-7:30 - Live Bands 7:30-10:30 pm | Off the Grid: Over 32 food trucks and street food carts in a huge circle with a full bar and bands in the middle? Now that's a party. 2 Marina Blvd.

THU • AUTHOR COLETTE LAFIA

Tue May 7 | 7 pm | A friendship between Lafia and a silent monk at the Abbey of Gethsemani, in *Seeking Surrender* Lafia's palpable openness and warm storytelling lead readers to find peace with life, and God. Bookshop West Portal, 80 West Portal.

TUE • SHEEP SHEARING/CHILDRENS ZOO

May 7 | 10:30 am-1 pm | The annual Sheep at the Children's Zoo includes spindle-spinning demonstrations. 753-7080; sfzoo.org.

FRI • KRONOS QUARTET

Fri May 8 | 6-7 pm | Concert, Conversation with the Quartet. This internationally recognized chamber ensemble visits Community Music Center for the first time. Music Center, 544 Capp, Info: 647-6015

SAT • TEEN COMPUTER CORPS

Sat May 9, 16, 23 | 1-5 pm | Drop-in and get one on one help with a teen tech savvy volunteer! Bring your laptop, ereaders, gadgets, digital cameras, tablets, cell phones. We will try to help you figure it out. W. Portal Branch, 355-2886, 190 Lenox Way.

The “Other” World’s Fair



Tue May 12 | 7 to 9:30 pm | Milton Marks Auditorium 455 Golden Gate Ave.

Everyone knows about the splendors of the Panama Pacific International Exposition, but not necessarily much about “The Zone” which was flashy, colorful and – in the eyes of some – a bit tawdry. Visitors to the Zone could find educated horses, hula dancers, risqué artwork, and wild amusement rides as well as fanciful restaurants and souvenir concessions. Glenn Koch's presentation will take the audience on a visual tour of “The Zone” – you will come away with an appreciation of the PPIE amusement district, and understand why it deserves to be remembered today. Koch is an aficionado of San Francisco history, and the author of San Francisco Golden Age Postcards and Picturing Long Beach Island, New Jersey.

San Francisco Museum and Historical Society, Free for SFMHS Members \$10 non-members \$5 Seniors and Students. Info: sfhistory.org Call: (415) 537-1105 ext 100 Facebook: San Francisco Museum and Historical Society

Building, Golden Gate Park. maitrisf.org.

THU • AUTHOR GARY SNYDER AT 85

Thu May 14 | 7:30 pm | American poet, Zen Buddhist, mountaineer, environment activist, Snyder's poetry and prose, include *Danger on Peaks, Mountains and Rivers Without End, The Practice of the Wild, Axe Handles*, and *Turtle Island*. Described as “the Thoreau of the Beat Generation.” \$27 Nourse Theater, 275 Hayes St. Info: 392-4400

THU • UNBROKEN

Thu May 14 | 6-8 pm | *Unbroken* directed by Angelina Jolie and starring Jack O'Connell and Takamasa Ishihara. After a near-fatal plane crash in WWII, Olympian Louis Zamperini spends a harrowing 47 days in a raft with two fellow crewmen before he's caught by the Japanese navy and sent to a POW camp. Ortega Branch, 3223 Ortega St.

SAT • ASIAN HERITAGE STREET FAIR

Sat May 16 | 11 am-6 pm | From Cynthia Lin and the Blue Moon All-Stars to Japanese koto, event entertainment from modern to traditional Asian performers. The food bazaar will feature vendors from Korean tacos to Filipino lumpia to Thai noodles to Vietnamese BBQ. Free Civic Center @ Van Ness Info: 581-3500

SAT • WHATS TO KNOW ABOUT ZENIO?

Sat May 16 | 2-3 pm | Download and read full issues of your favorite popular magazines—no holds, no checkout periods, and no limits. We will introduce you with round-the-clock access to San Francisco Public Library's databases. Parkside Branch, 1200 Taraval.

SAT • DRAWING WITH OLIVER CHIN

Sat May 16 | 2-4 pm | Learn how to make your own manga with illustrator Oliver Chin! Oliver has written more than 15 books, including the children's picture book series *Tales from the Chinese Zodiac*. Tips/techniques to create comics. Ortega Branch 3223 Ortega.

WED • FREE E-BOOKS DROP-IN

Wed May 13, 20, 27 | 1:30-2:30 pm | Do you have an eReader? You can check out more than 40,000 electronic books for free. Bring your Kindle, Nook, iPad or other eReader, learn how to use it to download books/materials from the Library website. W. Portal Branch, 355-2886, 190 Lenox Way.

MON • AUTHOR CELESTE NG

Mon May 18 | 7 pm | A profoundly moving story of family, history, and the meaning of home, *Everything I Never Told You* is both a gripping page-turner and a sensitive family portrait, exploring the rifts within a family, uncovering the ways they struggle for understanding. Bookshop West Portal, 80 West Portal.

TUE • COMMUNITY SAFETY MEETING

Tue May 19 | 7 pm | Meet with Captain Curtis Lum. 3rd Tue of the month. Taraval Police Station 2345 24th Ave. 759-3100.

WED • 4TH ANNIV. / MERCED BRANCH

Wed May 20 | 6 pm | Celebrate the 4th Anniversary of the Merced Branch Reopening at its Open House and Arts & Culture Salon! I. Reed Daley and Bookworms,

bluegrass band. Shohreh Aghdashloo, Oscar-nominated Iranian-American actress, reads from her book, *The Alley of Love*. 155 Winston Dr.

WED • ANNIE

Wed May 20 | 6:30-8 pm | Annie, the 2014 Musical A foster kid, who lives with her mean foster mom, sees her life change when a business tycoon and New York mayoral candidate makes a thinly-veiled campaign move and takes her in. W. Portal Branch, 355-2886, 190 Lenox Way.

THU • ORIGAMI FOR ADULTS

Thu May 21 | 6:30 pm | Space is limited for this popular class at the West Portal Branch Library. If you're interested please call 355.5788 or email wpomgr@sfpl.org or register via EventBrite.

THU-FRI • SF BACH CHOIR

Thu-Fri May 21-22 | Sat 8 pm; Sun 4 pm | The SF Bach Choir performs Mass in B Minor with SFBC Baroque Orchestra. Calvary Presb., Fillmore & Jackson. 441-4942; www.sfbach.org.

WED • WHAT’S THE GMO FUSS?

Wed May 27 | 7- 8 pm | What's all the fuss about GMOs? What should you know about genetically engineered foods? Wendy Portnuff shares the history of genetically modified foods, potential impact of these foods on our health, and tips for how to avoid them. Merced Branch, 155 Winston Dr.

THU • BIKE MAINTENANCE

Thu May 28 | 6-7:30 pm | Join staff from Swell Bicycles as they give an intro to bike maintenance at the Ortega branch library. Make sure to bring your bike along for the ride! 3223 Ortega.

THU • OMI NEIGHBORS IN ACTION

Thu May 28 | 7 pm | Meets last Thu each month. This meeting is at Temple UMC 65 Beverly/Sheilds

SAT • TAIKO DRUMMING

Sat May 30 | 3-4 pm | Taiko Drumming with Kristy Oshiro. Feel the thunderous sounds of the drums vibrating through your body as language, culture, and history—an exciting educational experience. Parkside Branch, 1200 Taraval.

MON • CENTRAL COUNCIL

Mon Jun 1 | 7:30 pm | West of Twin Peaks Central Council meets to discuss topics of interest to Westside residents. Meets the last Monday each month. Forest Hills Clubhouse, 381 Magellan Ave.

TUE • LEGION OF HONOR FREE DAY

Tue Jun 2 | 9:30 am - 5:15 pm | 4000 years of ancient and European art in the exquisite Beaux-Arts building in an unforgettable setting overlooking Golden Gate Bridge. 100 34th Ave. Free first Tues.

TUE • DE YOUNG FREE DAY

Tue Jun 2 | 9:30 am - 5:15 pm | Founded in 1895 in Golden Gate Park, the de Young Museum is a landmark art museum of American art from the 17th -20th centuries, and art of the native Americas, Africa, & Pacific. 50 Hagiwara Tea Garden Drive. Free first Tuesdays.

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Now At the Movies / By Don Lee Miller

DANNY COLLINS

The title character is a has-been movie star and pop rocker: Al Pacino with an about-to-be ex-wife whom he treats more than fairly. He relocates to a Florida hotel with management by Mary Sinclair: Annette Bening. He looks up his son Tom: Bobby Cannavale and his wife Samantha: Jennifer Garner. Danny's manager Frank: Christopher Plummer uncovers a letter from the Seventies written by John Lennon that was never delivered. It starts Danny in a new direction, changing his old ways. Directed and screenplay by Dan Fogelman with some surprises and rich characterizations. Drug use. Some nudity. Profanity.

FURIOUS 7

After a hacker is kidnapped, a mysterious government official Mr. Nobody: Kurt Russell enlists Dominic: Vin Diesel, Brian: Paul Walker, and the crew to get the God's Eye program back. Deckard: Jason Statham is out for vengeance for the killing of his brother in Furious 6. Despite the nonsense plot, this latest installment does provide a great send-off to both Brian and the late Mr. Walker. Scenes where his brothers were used with CGI of Paul's face are seamlessly inserted and cannot be distinguished. Fans will be satisfied with each of the stars having their moments in the spotlight as they endure extreme danger: Hobbs: Dwayne Johnson, Tej: Ludacris, and Letty: Michelle Rodriguez. Brian's wife Mia: Jordana Brewster has enough screen-time to satisfy her fans. If interested, mark your calendar for the opening of F&F8: April 14, 2017. Brief profanity. Prolonged sequences of action, mayhem, and violence. Suggestive content.

IT FOLLOWS

When a 19-year-old girl, Jay: Maika Monroe sleeps with an older man, Hugh: Jake Weary, she begins to be followed by some monster that's passed during intercourse from one person to the other like a supernatural venereal disease. This indie horror tale directed and written by David Robert Mitchell claws its way into your body with a grimness that is deadly serious, smart and also stylish. Paul: Keir Gilchrist consoles her when she sees threatening visions. Disturbing violent and sexual content, including

graphic nudity. Profanity.

LITTLE BOY

A boy nicknamed Little Boy/ Pepper: Jakob Salvati loves his father James: Michael Rapaport so strongly he practically wills him to return from serving in WWII. His mother Emma: Emily Watson and older brother London: David Henrie look on in amazement as Pepper develops defensive powers when he is growing slower than is normal. His priest, Fr. Oliver: Tom Wilkinson seems to be the only one who supports Little Boy's friendship with the sole Japanese senior in town, Hashimoto: Cary-Hiroyuki Tagawa. The widowed Dr. Fox: Kevin James tries to come on to Emma. Fox's son is one of the bullies who make life miserable for Little Boy. Pepper's comic book hero Ben Eagle: Ben Chapin also narrates. Smithsonian Institute Award winning director Alejandro Monteverde directed and co-wrote this lifting tale about an eight-year old imbued with magic abilities after being on stage with a touring magician. Some thematic material including violence.

UNFRIENDED

This tale is told entirely on a computer screen with various people logging on, some unwanted. The plot is a Ten Little Indians story as one after another dies horribly. Sometimes it's mesmerizing, sometimes dull. The cast consists of unknowns: Laura: Heather Sossaman, whose suicide follows the malicious posting of an expose of her on the Internet, and Matt: Matthew Bohrer and Val: Courtney Halverson also star. Director Levan Gabriadze won Most Innovative Film and Special Mention at the 2014 Fantasia Film Festival. At least it's short. Pervasive profanity. Violent content. Fantasy action and peril. Some sexuality. Teen drug and alcohol use.

WOMAN IN GOLD

Maria Altman's story starts in the 1980s with the fabulous Helen Mirren learning when her sister dies that the Klimt painting of their beloved Aunt Adele is on exhibition at a gallery near their childhood home in Vienna. It is valued at \$1.5-million. Octogenarian Maria, with the help of her friend Frances Fisher:

Cont. p. PB

At the Theater / Flora Lynn Isaacson & Linda Ayres-Frederick

The Way West
An Old West Pioneer Story of Survival at MTC

Two daughters, Meesh (a feisty Rosie Hallett) and Manda (a sleek Kathryn Zdan), try to help their Central Valley mom (an energetic Anne Darragh), as she regales them with songs and tales of the optimism that won the West, in this West Coast premiere of Mona Mansour's comic family drama at Marin Theatre Company.

Complementing this incredible cast of Bay Area actors – MTC veterans Anne Darragh, Stacy Ross, and Kathryn Zdan, as well as newcomers Rosie Hallett and Hugo E. Carbajal – are the musical compositions of the country by the amazing folk duo Misner + Smith, who create catchy musical tunes. All of the actresses accompany themselves on guitars. Mona Mansour's cautionary tale about a true-believer in her notions of Old West pioneer values has a wonderful cast and a fine director (from the Minneapolis Playwright Center), Hayley Finn. Haley Finn has a nice way of including lit-up cards for each of the different scenes to keep the audience on the same track.

One could say *The Way West* is a clash of Old West myths and modern financial reality.

Well-known Bay Area actress **Stacy Ross** has a clever cameo as Tress, mom's wonderfully funny friend, to join her magic water therapy business. **Hugo E. Carbajal** appears as two different characters, first as Manda's lawyer ex-boyfriend, and a secondary role as a pizza delivery man, who is quite amazing.

Geoffrey M. Curley's set, which is an open-arch living room, full of clutter, suggests a type of covered wagon.

While *The Way West* has true moments of poignancy and even a few laughs, it needs a more compelling plot and a flushed-out tone. If we've learned anything from the gold rush and westward land-grabbing, it's that the true pioneer spirit lives on, and with some work so will this play.

The Way West runs from April 16 through May 10, 2015, with performances at:

8:00 p.m. **Tue – Sat**

Wed at 7:30 p.m.

Sun at 2 and 7:00 p.m.

Sat May 9 at 2:00 p.m.

All performances take place at the Marin Theatre Company, located at 397 Miller Avenue, Mill Valley 94941. To order tickets, telephone 415-388-5208 or go online at www.marintheatre.org.

Coming up next at the Marin Theatre Company will be **Choir Boy** by Tarell Alvin McCraney, directed by Kent Gash, from June 4 through June 28, 2015.

Flora Lynn Isaacson

Flora Lynn Isaacson

Linda Ayres-Frederick

Quentin Kopp (Cont. from p. 4)

subsidization by toll payers and taxpayers. After many years, the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District began to recover about half of the ferry service expenses from fares (commonly called “fare box recovery ratio”). Except for the Vallejo ferry service (54% fare box recovery), other such services from the East Bay have either failed completely (Richmond and Berkeley after the October 17, 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake) or consumed enormous amounts of taxpayer subsidy. By comparison, the Alameda/Oakland ferry operates with a 56% fare box recovery rate, but the Harbor Bay service is still struggling, only showing a 40% fare box recovery rate. The South San Francisco ferry service however, which never should have begun after major South San Francisco employers like Genentech declined to participate monetarily, after three years still requires 86% of its operating costs from taxpayer subsidies, a 14% fare box recovery ratio, according to its fiscal year 2014-15 budget. In that same budget, \$275,000 will be spent on the South San Francisco terminal (at Oyster Point) “Mitigation Study,” whatever that means.

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission was established by the Legislature in 1969 as the planning and programming agency for *all* Bay Area transportation operators. No sound reason exists for allowing the (“WETA”) to exist, with its multimillion dollar administrative budget from federal funds, state funds, even bridge toll revenues, other local funds, and fare box income to the tune of over of over \$2,252,000, plus the tax subsidies of over \$22,660,000 for riders. Wouldn’t it be nice to see one governmental entity eliminated in the Bay Area? Don’t hold your breath.

Expanding ferry boat service willy-nilly, as advocated in an article last month by the president of the Bay Area Council, comprising large Bay Area corporations, constitutes a foolish way to put taxpayers in more debt and extract more money from them. Commuting by ferry is an acquired taste which needs temperate encouragement, not reckless throwing of money at it which occurred with tolls from the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District from the 19780s until the early 1990s, or the Berkeley and Richmond services which simply shut down for insolvency. It must be done carefully, slowly and under the rubric of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, not another unneeded bureaucracy.

Retired former Supervisor, State Senator and Judge Quentin Kopp lives in District 7

Balboa Reservoir (Cont. from p. 1)

months to arrive at the plan to be presented next month.

Shaw seems to have taken a more singular view of the myriad opinions spouted in January and is moving forward with plans to include moderate and low income housing, as well as open space and maintained public parks with walking paths.

The next steps for Shaw and company will be to create a Request for Proposal to send to potential designers and developers, and it is this objective that will hopefully be ironed out and prepared at May’s meeting. Although “developer” seems to have become a bad word in the Bay Area in recent gentrify-heavy years, Shaw and the entire Public Land for Housing Commission hope that with the community involvement, the final state of the land will be something to be enjoyed by everyone, both those new to the city and lifetime residents.

At May’s meeting, which will take place on the City College campus in the Multi-Use Building, Shaw will present his plan, blueprints and tentative proposals for a multi-income housing development next to large open spaces and walking paths. What Shaw wants to hear from the neighborhood constituents is how they would most like to use this free space, what they want it to look like, certain activities they have in mind, and other questions of a similar ilk.

What the PLFH Commission would like to achieve is maximum use from a space that has so long been forgotten by the neighborhood and left nearly for dead. In a city where every inch of space in our 7-by-7 mile landscape is precious, it’s time to get to work.

The key element of this project and the accompanying meetings are to create a safe space at the meetings, within San Francisco, and at the future reservoir site. The Public Land for Housing Commission wants to create a place that does **not** bulldoze over the opinions of the people who have kept this city alive over the past 40 some-odd years.

Hopefully, what May’s meeting will accomplish will be to find those who are ready to accept change (yes, it’s hard) and are ready to say not what they don’t want in their backyard, but indeed what they do want there.

Maya Lekach is a local reporter.

Reinterpreting Laws

By Brian Browne

I read with amazement that PG&E had legally prevailed in a March 26, 2012, appeal (A127554), stating that PG&E and not the SFPUC had the right to supply the Ferry Building with electric power. SFPUC as a power provider to the Ferry Building was legally terminated and PG&E became the power provider to the Ferry Building. The court decision turned on the argument that the Ferry Building, with its many private businesses, was not agreed on “Municipal Load.”

The dichotomy between municipal load and selling directly to the citizens of San Francisco was never enshrined in the 1913 Raker Act or affirmed by the U.S. Supreme Court (U.S. Supreme Court, U.S. v. San Francisco 310 U.S. 16(1940)). The Raker Act, which gave San Francisco certain rights in the Hetch Hetchy Valley for the purposes of the City and other public bodies of supplying water for domestic purposes and the sale and distribution of cheap electric power in competition with private power companies merely prohibited the sale of Hetch Hetchy water and power for resale to private entities. The concept of municipal load, in the Hetch Hetchy lexicon, is a new one with no nexus to the enabling legislation of the U.S grantee law (Raker) to allow San Francisco to develop water and power resources from High Sierra water for direct citizen and governmental use.

“Is it the purpose of this bill to have San Francisco supply electric power and water to its own people?” Mr. Raker responded “Yes.”

In a 1913 exchange between Representative Raker (Raker Act) and Representative Sumners in the debate prior to passage of the 1913 Raker Act, Mr. Sumners asked Mr. Raker “Is it the purpose of this bill to have San Francisco supply electric power and water to its own people?” Mr. Raker responded “Yes.”

In looking at the legal machinations of the PG&E v. SFPUC decision, I did not find any reference to the Raker Act hearings or the 1940 U.S. Supreme Court decision, both of which made it abundantly clear that San Francisco could not sell water or power from the Hetch Hetchy (High Sierra) system to an investor owned utility for resale. But the Raker Actv encouraged the sale of these commodities by San

Cont. p. 17



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Second Thoughts / by Jack Kaye



What Can America Do for You?

America is the third largest country in the world and the very richest. More people apply for entry here each year than they do to all the other 190+ countries in the world combined. America started the United Nations and is its largest contributor. America is also the major force in NATO and in the World Bank, which distributes money from the richest countries to the poorest. America also has the largest and best trained and equipped armed forces.

So what can America do for you?

Was there a natural disaster in your country as we saw in the Japan, the Philippines and Indonesia? Do you want America to send money and aid? Was there a mining disaster? Do you want America to send technical assistance?

Are the angry mobs in your country calling for the ouster of your leader, as has happened recently in Yemen, Libya, Egypt, Syria, Egypt again, and Tunisia? Do you want America to provide military assistance? We know you never meant "Death to America" and "Death to Israel" when you yelled it in the streets. And after we help you, we will not mind if you repeat your old slogan. We know that we are not perfect no matter how hard we try.

Does your country fear invasion by another, as is happening now in the Ukraine and happened 23 years ago in Kuwait? Should we intervene? Is one of your religious sects trying to destroy another, causing a civil war? Do you want us to take sides - yours? Is a radical religious group trying to force its wicked ideology on your people as it is in Iraq, Syria, Pakistan, Yemen, Nigeria, Darfur, and Afghanistan? Is American military assistance needed?

Are two neighbors fighting each other because one wants the other to not exist while the other fights to survive? Is it America's responsibility to settle the dispute by offering more foreign aid? Is \$5 billion a year not enough now that Afghanistan got \$6.7 billion? Don't worry about ever repaying us, it's our treat.

Are the people in your country no longer able to stand living in their beloved homeland because of all the poverty, violence, pollution and corruption there? Should all the poor and huddled masses come to America? The poem on the Statue of Liberty seems to offer an invitation; surely its young poet's message must be America's obligation. Our almost 50 million poor Americans are more than happy to be joined by millions of needy from foreign lands. We all love diversity and are dying for more.

Is there a health crisis in your homeland, like Ebola or AIDs in Africa? Can America find and provide a cure? Should we send in troops and health workers to assist while risking their lives in the effort?

Do our many friends and allies need military protection from enemies from long ago? Does South Korea still need 30,000 American troops there 60 years after the Korean War? Does Europe need American military bases in its many countries to continue to protect against a possible invasion by the Soviet Union that no longer exists? What's \$100 billion a year among friends?

But what about helping Americans? How can America help its own people?

Does your business need to pay its workers the minimum possible wage? No problem. The government can subsidize the employee and you by providing them

Earned Income Credit, SNAP, housing and utilities subsidies, and free school breakfast and lunch programs for the children.

Are your banks struggling to make billions of dollars in profits each year? The Fed can lend you money at no interest so you can afford to lend it to your customers for as much as 25% interest. And why should your bank account holders get more than .1% return on their savings? You need the money more than they do because big bonuses and generous dividends need to be paid.

Has anything terrible happened to a family member? Were any of them victims of a terrorist attack? Was it an air or rail-caused fatality? The government can compensate you for your loss if there is no other deep pockets party to file a claim against. Did you lose property because of a storm in an area very vulnerable to weather conditions? Did you not have insurance for this natural disaster? The American government will cover your losses. FEMA to the rescue.

And if you and a mob of others are upset about something you heard about in your area, no matter how incorrect, like "he had his hands up," the police will stand by as you riot in the streets, block traffic, chant obscenities and loot businesses. They will not interfere because they want you to express your First Amendment rights, disregarding the fact that the amendment only covers peaceful demonstrations, not riots by angry and usually misinformed mobs.

Did you go to a college you could not afford, causing you to rack up huge debt? It's been a year now since you left school and you still owe the money, as do many others. If you do pay it back, you will have less money to spend on other things like a new car or a nice vacation. Wouldn't it make more sense for the government to bail out this trillion dollars worth of student debt? Isn't that what you'd like? Better yet, can't all college education be free? A lot more money could then be spent on goods and services. Aren't we all entitled to a free college education?

Did you borrow too much against your home over the years until you owed more than the collateral was worth when real estate values declined? Do you want the government to get the banks to lower the amount of your debt because the value of your collateral has decreased through no fault of your own?

Have you committed a terrible crime but did not put away enough money to cover your defense? No problem. The government will provide you with excellent legal defense and you will never be billed for it. This offer is also good for foreign terrorists who commit heinous crimes against this country. Surely they deserve the best defense American tax dollars can buy. It seems like the least we owe these people.

America is here to help!

Feedback: kaye@westsideobserver.com

West Portal Traffic (Cont. from p. 8)

within their immediate work-zone so as not to further impact merchants.

"We have also committed to providing a half-block area within each active block for deliveries. Representatives from both the merchant and resident groups are valued members of our team and provide us instant feedback on the day to day construction triumphs and woes. We are committed to making these roadway, infrastructure and safety improvements for the people that use West Portal."

The Twin Peaks Tunnel Construction

SFMTA will be replacing all of the tracks inside Twin Peaks Tunnel. The Tunnel runs between Castro and West Portal MUNI stations. A number of retrofits to the inside of the tunnel will also take place during the track replacement to avoid future shutdowns.

Despite the age and deterioration to the tunnel, the City has never performed any seismic retrofits to the Twin Peaks Tunnel. A 2009 report, put out by the SFMTA's Capital Programs and Construction

Letters (Cont. from p. 7)

from the loss. Currently, Apple has billions of dollars off-shore because they do not want to pay taxes. Perhaps, there is a way to have them bring the money into San Francisco to build housing for the City?

It would be amazing if one of the City's 20 billionaires pitched in toward housing or if Apple, Facebook, or Google paid something to help fight off the displacement their workforce is causing in San Francisco. Right now these corporations don't pay any payroll tax in San Francisco, their companies are housed outside of the City, and they are running their own private shuttle systems on the streets. I think Google has some offices in San Francisco which is great and I would encourage more corporations to bring their campuses to

Health Boosts (Cont. from p. 9)

when you use them.

6. Stop buying broccoli. That is, don't buy it if you are not going to eat it! No matter how nutritious everyone tells you something is, it won't do you any good sitting at the bottom of the refrigerator. Instead, experiment with vegetables that you may like better. Or mix up a variety of vegetables using a couple of broccoli florets and a lot of other things that are more appealing. If you love potatoes (and who doesn't?), they can help make other vegetables more palatable when they are served in the same dish. Yes, you must eat *some* veggies, but here in California we are lucky to have lots to choose from.

Division, asserts that the Twin Peaks Tunnel is in relatively good condition.

According to Kelley McCoy, Public Information Officer, "...three lines travel through this tunnel several times a day, serving over 80,000 customers daily. To keep the system running safely and reliably, we need to replace the aging track system, repair parts of the tunnel walls and ceiling, and make seismic improvements.

"The current tunnel infrastructure is about 40 years old and is nearing the end of its usefulness.

"The seismic improvements to the unused Eureka Valley Station will not only improve the safety of the tunnel, but the neighborhoods above it. The last time the tracks were replaced was 1975. In the nearly one hundred years the tracks were replaced twice. The total cost? \$47 million.

"Any information about the bus shuttles, including the temporary stops and route, will be posted to the project website when it becomes available."

Twin Peaks Tunnel New tracks between West Portal and Castro stations will ensure that MUNI trains run safely and reliably through the tunnel. This will also lift the current speed restriction in the tunnel and allow trains to move faster.

Blue Light Emergency Telephone The existing emergency phones will be upgraded and new phones added throughout the MUNI subway. These phones are crucial for contacting emergency services in a crisis, such as a natural disaster or medical emergency.

According to Jay Lu, Public Relations Officer, "(the Blue Light) Emergency Telephone and Radio System were last installed in the 70's. The current systems are old and outdated. The new Blue Light phones and radio system are equipped with state-of-the-art technology to modernize MUNI and the reliability of our communications system. Upgrading the Blue Light Emergency Telephones will improve the MUNI emergency response system. Replacing 90 old phones with 181 new ones will make it easier and more accessible for MUNI customers in emergency situations. The upgraded system will be effective in dealing with unplanned emergencies, such as a natural disaster or a medical emergency."

The Blue Light Emergency Telephone and Radio Replacement Projects (From West Portal Station to Embarcadero Station) will cause MUNI to shut down on weeknights 7 days/week (9:00 pm to start of regular am train service) in July 2015 to

San Francisco and pay payroll and other City taxes.

One last idea would be for the City to purchase buildings with protected tenants and collect the rent on these buildings. The City could work with organizations like the San Community Land Trust to help fund and facilitate these types of purchases. <http://www.sfclt.org>

I believe people want to halt development because the housing which is being built is only affordable to a very elite, global market; it does not provide housing for a majority of people who work in San Francisco. Thanks for your work on this very complex, ever-changing, and vital City issue.

Kate Haug, a public art maker interested in economic issues. www.publicpost.us

7. Skip the sunscreen. If you are fair-skinned and it's mid-summer, you'd best apply some sunscreen on exposed areas to prevent a burn, even if it's foggy outside. But during the winter months, load up on natural vitamin D from sun exposure. It may help with a variety of skin issues, and with combatting season-related mood disorders and allergies.

As with all health-related advice, check with a healthcare practitioner before incorporating new habits. And don't forget to ask yourself if any recommendation makes sense to you.

Sharone Franzen is an acupuncturist and herbalist in Lakeside Village.

January 2016.

Twin Peaks Tunnel Track Replacement Tentative schedule: Shutdown on weekends (late pm Fridays to start of regular train service Monday morning) in winter 2016 to late spring or summer.

Radio Replacement: As part of a system-wide upgrade to MUNI communications, SFMTA is upgrading the radio system. This will improve communications on all MUNI vehicles, provide American Disabilities Act (ADA) passenger travel information, and improve service disruptions.

Tunnel repairs have had a history of neighborhood problems. While most of the work is taking place inside the tunnel, construction crews have to haul gravel, rails, and other materials in from either end. It creates a continuous level of construction sounds that include the beeping of trucks and earthmovers backing up, dump trucks depositing gravel, and the grating noise of rails being dragged. The movements of large gravel and rail dumps create high pitched noise and large amounts of dust.

When the Sunset tunnel for the N Judah was being refurbished, the noise level at night was so loud that residents could not sleep. After 51 residents signed a petition regarding the Sunset project had to be shut down for two months.

According to the SFMTA, many of the problems created from the Sunset tunnel rebuild will be mitigated by 1) gravel removal which will be done at both the Castro street and West Portal entrances; 2) gravel ballast will be delivered to the job site only between 6am - 10pm Friday and Saturday; 3) new truck back-up alarms will lower noise levels; and 4) using electric-powered equipment, rather than diesel-powered equipment, whenever possible.

There will be two staging areas needed for the project. The area on Junipero Serra from Ocean Avenue to Sloat Blvd. will be used to hold all the new rail and gravel to go into the tunnel. The second staging area will hold the old materials until it can be discarded.

The West Portal parking lot will most likely be used as a staging area as fewer trucks will be needed to carry debris from the tunnel to the lot.

The Twin Peaks Tunnel rebuild and the water main and sewage project are inconvenient, let's hope they do a good job.

George Wooding, Westside Observer

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ADDRESS	TYPE	BEDS	BATHS	PK	ASKING	SOLD	%OF ASKING
20 Alton Ave	Forest Hill	3	3	2	1,650,000	2,075,000	125.76
440 Dellbrook Ave	Midtown Terrace	3	2	1	998,888	1,360,000	136.15
115 San Pablo Ave	St. Francis Wood	3	2.5	1	2,200,000	2,015,000	98.29
830 Rockdale Dr	Miraloma Park	3	2	1	1,095,000	1,400,000	127.85
82 El Sereno Ct	Miraloma Park	3	2	2	1,375,000	1,600,000	116.36
98 Rockaway Ave	Forest Hill Extension	5	3.5	1	2,995,000	3,025,000	101
431 Staples Ave	Sunnyside	4	1	1	799,000	1,000,000	125.16

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Then & Now



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Notes: Written on back: "West of Twin Peaks (Lake Merced), Book 4, pp. 16-17 Published by permission from the San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library.

OPEN LATE



By Julie Casson @toysalsa

				3		7	1	8
			5		6		4	
1			9					
8	2							
6		9		7		4		1
							2	3
					9			4
	3		7		8			
2	6	8		5				

Sudoku-fun!

Rules:
Each puzzle is a 9 by 9 grid of squares divided into nine 3 by 3 square blocks, with some of the numbers filled in for you.

The Object:
Fill in the blank squares so that each of the numbers 1 to 9 appears exactly once in each row, column and block.

Answer:
The answer appears below.

2	6	8	4	5	1	9	3	7
7	5	1	8	9	2	4	3	6
4	9	8	6	2	3	5	1	7
3	2	9	5	6	8	1	7	4
1	8	4	3	7	2	6	5	9
5	7	6	1	4	9	3	2	8
9	3	5	7	8	6	2	4	1
6	4	2	9	1	5	7	8	3
8	1	7	2	3	4	9	6	5

BRAIN FUD

WORD CHALLENGE

Find the words that fit in the spaces below, and make two new words.

- Example: Air PORT Wine
1. Swimming ____ Table
2. Free ____ Ward
3. Wisdom ____ Ache

4. Bear ____ Up
5. Watch ____ Gang

Answer
1. POOL 2. WAY 3. TIGHT 4. HOLD 5. CHAIN

We're On The Web!



westsideobserver.com

Education

Déjà vu vu vu
By Carol Kocivar ©2015

Time plays tricks.

The interconnectedness of today and yesterday and even tomorrow are not always apparent in the here and now.

Huh? Example please.
I recently spent a couple of days in Sacramento at a conference on Early Learning. If you are interested in *how* children learn, it was a sort of “pig in mud” experience.
We all know that getting kids ready for school is something that happens long before that panicked trip to the store to make sure we have all the accouterments for the first day of school.
Backpack. Check.
Notebook. Check.
Vocabulary. Not so fast.
Social skills. Hmmmm.
You can’t put a checkmark next to



And yes, it is a lot about relationships.
I urge you—after you finish this column—to take a look at a YouTube video Still Face Experiment with Dr. Edward Tronick. If you ever doubted the importance of supporting emotional development in young children, a quick look at this video will help you understand how important strong on-going relationships can be.
A one-year-old child is playing with mom. Smiling, laughing. Then mom puts on the “still face”. She does not react to the child. Within seconds, the child senses the lack of emotional support. He goes from

“It really starts at the beginning. Some call it Birth to Three.

vocabulary development and social skills at the last minute.
The interconnectedness of today and yesterday and even tomorrow are not always apparent in the here and now.
What we know and *how* we make sure all kids have the support they need takes a large conversation. That really was the purpose of the Sacramento event. Aptly called *Stronger Together: Embracing the Whole Child*, it brought together a wide range of topics.
(I always say that if I can bring just one really good idea home from a conference, it is worth it. Well, I got more than one.)
When we talk about early learning, it is not just pre-school.
It really starts at the beginning. Some call it Birth to Three.
However you label it, thinking that it is an investment in pre-school *alone* really misses the boat.
Early learning goes beyond just cognitive development, measured frequently by how many words a child knows by three, or how many words a child knows by five to be ready for kindergarten.
Skills, not just knowledge, are important.
Skills can be acquired: Self-control, Emotional Development, Early Life Abilities.

concern to despair within a minute. And then back to happy with a reassuring smile from mom.
The interconnectedness of today and yesterday and even tomorrow are not always apparent in the here and now.
The time spent supporting a young baby is priceless. Put in economic terms, early investment is much more important than late remediation.
Yes. Time plays tricks.
Think about that one-minute and that one more minute and that one more minute when you were just too busy to spend with a baby.
Think about some public policy issues. The value of paid family leave. The value of early health care The value of maternity support for families.
The interconnectedness of today and yesterday and even tomorrow are not always apparent in the here and now.
You can find more information about Early Learning by visiting “The Water Cooler Conference” web page, co-sponsored by the Advancement Project and the California Department of Education.
Carol Kocivar is former President of the California Parent Teachers Assn. and she lives in the Westside.

Crime Report (Cont. from p. 10)
Seems an unknown suspect used her account to upgrade & cancel her cellular phone.
Assault
6:33 pm / 4100 Judah St
A victim had blood on his face &was sitting on a curb. The victim refused to cooperate or answer any questions.
Thu - Apr 23
Robbery
10:28 am / Ocean Ave & Plymouth Ave
A man walking on a sidewalk was approached by a suspect from behind. The suspect said he had a gun in his pocket & demanded money from the victim. The victim complied. The suspect fled.
Suspect – male :: 6’2” tall :: 250 lbs :: LSW dark green hooded sweatshirt, blue denim shorts, dark shoes
Fri - Apr 24
Theft
5:59 pm / 2000 Irving St
A shoplifting suspect stole merchandise and fled in a getaway vehicle.
Suspect – Black male :: 30-35 years :: 6’00” tall :: 300 lbs :: bald :: goatee :: LSW gray hoodie, blue jeans, black tennis shoes
Suspect vehicle – red Mercedes Benz 320 SLK
Sat - Apr 25
Battery
12:58 am / 1600 Holloway Ave
A passenger on a street train got into an argument with another passenger. As they

both exited at the same stop, the suspect hit the passenger who reported the incident. He hit back before the suspect fled.
Suspect – Hispanic male :: 25-30 years :: 5’8” tall :: 170 lbs :: brown hair :: LSW red button up shirt, black jacket, black jeans
Burglary-False Imprisonment-Robbery
2:53 am / 700 Holloway Ave
A victim was alone when a suspect gained entry, threatened the victim with a gun, & demanded money. The suspect then tied up the victim & fled with the money.
Suspect – White male :: 28-35years :: 6’0” tall :: 180 lbs :: LSW black beanie, black jacket
Assault
10:16 am / 1400 20th Ave
A man alleged he was hit with pellets from a BB gun in his opened garage repairing his motorcycl eas he loudly revved the engine. Someone fired numerous pellets at him. He took cover closing the garage door.
Robbery
5:59 pm / 700 Holloway Ave
A man was entering his home when a suspect held a crowbar & demanded the man surrender his house keys. He punched the victim & took the keys. The suspect fled when a passerby walked by. A second suspect acted as lookout. Both suspects fled.
Suspect #1 – White male :: 30-40 years :: 6’2” tall :: 180 lbs :: blond hair :: blue eyes :: LSW white long sleeve shirt, blue jeans
Suspect #2 – male :: 30-40 years
Theft
6:05 pm / 1500 19th Ave
A man walked into Taraval Station to



Tiawanese artist Hung Yi exhibited 19 large-scale, vividly colored animals, spread across the Joseph L. Alioto Performing Arts Piazza on the eastern front of City Hall. Missed them? www.westsideobserver/Hung_Yi

Reinventing Law (Cont. from p. 14)

Francisco (SFPUC) to its “people.”
As a member of the Revenue Bond Oversight Committee (RBOC) I was continually amazed to hear fellow-members and attendant lawyers comment on the intent of the authors of the enabling legislation; 2002 Proposition P. This amazement came because I was an author of 2002 Proposition P. Proposition P was high jacked by self-serving interpretations of the real legislative intent, secret meetings, and the overt and continual interference by staff and members of the Administration

who saw real independent oversight as a serious challenge to their objectives.
If laws are reinvented and reinterpreted for implementation, the question must be asked: why pass these laws? It is amazing that a private company can usurp the federally endowed right of a governmental entity, CCSF.
Brian Browne was coauthor of 2002 Prop P and former member of the Revenue Bond Oversight Committee it created.

report a theft. The man had let a suspect—who is homeless, use his house to shower & wash his clothes. The man could not find his belongings after the homeless suspect used his house. The man alleged the suspect took his belongings.
Suspect – White male :: 34 years :: 5’10” tall :: 165 lbs :: brown hair :: brown eyes
Sun - Apr 26
Robbery
12:14 am / Noriega St & 32nd Ave
A man walked out of a bar to smoke a cigarette. He was approached by three suspects he saw earlier in the bar. The suspects beat the man repeatedly. The suspects accused him of gang activity. They took the victim’s belongings & fled.
Suspect #1 – White male :: 26-27 years :: 6’00” tall :: 200 lbs :: LSW green jacket, black pants
Suspect #2 – Hispanic male :: 28-30 years

:: 6’00” tall :: 250 lbs :: LSW black jacket, black pants, black shoes
Suspect #3 – Hispanic male :: 25-27 years :: 6’00” tall :: 170 lbs :: LSW gray “Giants” baseball hat, black jacket
Kidnapping-Threat
5:31 pm / Urbano Dr & Alviso St
A man & a woman stepped out of a stopped vehicle and argued. The man threw rocks at the woman as she walked away & threatened a passerby. The man then forced the woman against her will into the vehicle & drove away.
Kidnapped victim – Hispanic female :: 20-25 years :: 5’4” tall :: 110 lbs :: black hair
Suspect – Black male :: 20-25 years :: 5’10” tall :: 150 lbs :: black hair :: LSW gray T shirt, blue jeans
Suspect vehicle – gray 2010 Mercedes Benz
For complete Crime Reports : www.taraval.org

Likely Ballot Challenge to Short-Term Rentals (Airbnb) Filed

April 29th, Share Better San Francisco filed an initiative ordinance for the November 2015 ballot to tighten regulations on short-term residential rentals to tourists, such as those offered by HomeAway, VRBO and Airbnb, and provide the tools City Planning staff say are needed to provide effective enforcement of the law.
· Imposes fines on hosting platforms that list illegal or unregistered short-term rental (STR) units
· Requires quarterly reports of rental nights from hosts and hosting platforms
· Caps the number of allowable rental nights at 75 per year, hosted or unhosted, to discourage conversion of units to full-time STR use
· Allows ‘regular folks’ who may be directly impacted by illegal short-term rentals access to an effective enforcement alternative only if the City elects not to act on valid complaints
· Provides notification to neighbors and HOAs when STR registration is issued
The City Attorney has two weeks to prepare an official summary of the initiative. “We expect to begin gathering signatures in mid-May and will submit more than the 9,700 valid signatures required by July 6th,” said Dale Carlson, from the public relations firm, Carlson Advisors.

Housing Crisis (Cont. from p. 4)

of the Mayor’s policy goals and Prop “K” declaration of policy for 33% of affordable units for low-and moderate-income households, let alone the goal of 50% to be affordable for middle-class housing.

Planning notes that of the 3,514 new affordable units built in 2014, fully 96% were built in 10 eastern neighborhoods, including South of Market, Mission Bay, the Financial District/South Beach, Hayes Valley, Potrero Hill, Nob Hill, Castro/Upper Market Street, the Tenderloin, Bayview Hunters Point, and the Mission. Just 4% — merely 145 new affordable units — were built throughout the rest of the City.

As Major market-rate housing projects completed in 2014, Planning lists 17 projects by street address location totaling 3,358 market rate units built plus another 267 “affordable” units, for a total of 3,625 units, but didn’t specify whether the affordable units were built on or off-site. That’s just 7.4% affordable units.

MOHCD’s Annual Report

In MOHCD’s belated Annual Report for FY 2012-2013 and 2013-2014, the five permitted uses for the Housing Trust Fund voters approved in 2012, MOHCD boasted that only four Downpayment Assistance Loan Program loans for first responders (police officers, sheriff’s deputies, and firefighters) were issued out of 10 planned loans for the first year in FY 13-14, and only four low-income homeowners had received assistance for remediation of lead issues. Other Housing Trust Fund components received anemic funding and anemic results, as well.

For openers, MOHCD’s Annual Report for the two fiscal years issued in early 2015 comically reported that key milestones for the Housing Trust Fund through June 2014 involved “The bulk of [the] FY 2013/2014 [\$20 million General Fund investment] was spent defining and launching programs,” and that “\$3,256,000 of the Housing Trust Fund was spent in its first year.” Basic math suggests that \$16,744,000 — the bulk of its allocation — was not spent in its first year, by MOHCD’s own admission.

MOHCD separately provided a list of 157 Downpayment Assistance Loan Program (DALP) loans issued between June 1998 and January 2013 and subsequently were repaid; the list shows that of \$9,583,879 in DALP loans issued, on re-sale of the properties the City’s share of appreciation netted the City \$4,572,156 in addition to the loan repayments. The City’s share of the appreciation represents 47.7% of the \$9.58 million in loans MOHCD issued.

If this isn’t a classic definition of “usury” — the lending of money at exorbitant interest rates — I don’t know what else is. The City can claim all it wants that the loans are interest-free, but “sharing” such a large percentage of the appreciation with the City suggests otherwise. Is this Mayor Lee’s “sharing prosperity” agenda in action?.

MOHCD reported not only units constructed between 2007 and 2014, but also units approved and “entitled” in the housing pipeline.

As an MOHCD table shows, when housing units “entitled” are added in, market rate units jump to 197% of all housing being developed, but just 26% were built and entitled for moderate income earners, and 62% of units have been built or entitled for low-income households. Wow! Almost 24,244 market-rate units (nearly 200%) constructed or in development, but just 26% for middle-income units. Does this sound like “parity” to you?

City Controller’s Report

The City Controller’s Biennial Development Impact Fee Report for FY 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 lists a whole host of development impact fees charged to developers as a condition of approval for any given development project. The impact fees range from open space fees, bicycle parking in-lieu fees, to water capacity charges, school fees, transit fees, child care fees, public art fees, street trees in-lieu fees,

various neighborhood fees, along with both an Affordable Housing Job-Housing Linkage fee for commercial properties and residential Affordable Housing “Inclusionary” fees.

Of note, since FY 1988–1989, the City has collected affordable housing jobs-housing linkage fees of \$73.995 million, and another \$89.42 million in Affordable Housing Inclusionary Program fees, for a combined total of \$176.68 million, including \$13.26 million in interest earned. Across the two fees, \$45.9 million remained unspent at the end of June 2014.

Disturbingly, of the \$89.4 million in Inclusionary Program Fees collected since the program was introduced in FY 2005–2006, \$40.7 million remained unspent at the end of December 2014. Planning reported that \$116.8 million has been collected in “in-lieu” inclusionary fees over the decade since 2005, but the Controller reports the same program collected \$89.42 million. That’s a \$27.4 million variance?

Oddly, of \$39,900,664 paid into the Inclusionary Fee program in the four years between FY 10-11 and FY 13-14 ending in June 2014, the Controller reports that none of the fee revenue collected was expended. And no explanation was offered as to why none of the Inclusionary Fee fees collected were expended in the past four fiscal years.

MOHCD can’t find anything to spend \$40 million on?

Troubling State of Housing

Other concerns about the performance of the Mayor’s Office of Housing, and the City’s housing production.

MOHCD’s failed to respond to *West-side Observer’s* records requests for more specific information. What’s that about?

Second-Year Budget Performance

A separate records request to the City Controller unearthed MOHCD’s second year HTF budget, which was expected to total \$22.8 million. Surprisingly, the second-year budget soared to \$39.1 million by rolling over almost \$16 million — \$12,947,101 in an unencumbered balance plus \$3,381,512 in encumbered funds that were never spent in prior years.

Troubling questions persist as to the planned uses of the Housing Trust Fund sold to voters in 2012. As of this writing, nine months into FY 2014-2015:

Voters were told \$1 million would be set aside for DALP loans for first responders (FRDALP). In 2013-2014, just four loans were issued totaling \$400,000, and \$606,250 appears to have been rolled over into HTF’s budget for FY 2014-2015. Nine months into the year, no other loans have been issued in Year Two from the combined \$2 million allocation.

Of \$1,882,060 budgeted for the HTF’s “Small Site Acquisition” component, no expenditures have been made to date, and the \$1.9 million remains totally unencumbered (unspent and unobligated).

Although a “Housing Stabilization Program” had an original budget of \$1.6 million, the revised budget reduced that amount to just \$1,150,000, all of which also remains totally unencumbered.

The HTC’s “Complete Neighborhoods Initiative” budgeted at \$700,000 also remains totally unencumbered.

For the overall “Housing Development Pool” line item, although originally budgeted in the second year for \$14.5 million, the revised budget increased the amount to \$24 million, and oddly notes that it has a “Reserved Budget Use” of \$28.125 million. But in the second year, there have been no actual expenditures and no encumbrances.

HTF’s “Eviction Prevention and Tenant Stabilization” line item budgeted \$920,750 for the second year, only \$205,232 has been spent in the first nine months, although \$715,518 has been encumbered.

HTF’s “Healthy Homes Demonstration” project, designed to fund lead remediation, originally had no funding in the original second-year budget, but \$160,870 was added in the revised budget. In the first nine months of the year, \$13,634 was actually spent, and \$43,669 encumbered,

Cont. p. 18

leaving a balance of \$103,568, fully 64.4% of the allocation. The program may have made three awards in the current FY.

Although a non-first responders DALP program was to be set up, the original second-year budget for DALP loans for non-first-responders was reduced from \$2 million to just \$13,514 (as in thirteen-thousand).

Most disturbingly, the revised budget for the second year included \$2,964,542 for some sort of loan to the Housing Authority, all of which has been spent or encumbered. This is precisely what the Civil Grand Jury warned against in 2014.

The Mayor is diverting affordable housing funds for the middle-class to fund public housing improvements. That’s the danger of handing MOHCD sole discretion on how to spend the \$1.5 billion Housing Trust Fund over the next 30 years.

This is the same Mayor who wants voters to approving his \$250 million housing bond next November and to re-elect

him. With this track record, who would do either?

The Board of Supervisors needs to quickly schedule a hearing on MOHCD’s performance with the Housing Trust Fund in 2015 and not wait until the fifth year to do so in 2018. And the Supervisors need to create some sort of Board or Commission having oversight of MOHCD. After all, the displacement of thousands of San Franciscans and the state of San Francisco’s housing crisis suggests the Supervisors need to move quickly.

Monette-Shaw is an open-government accountability advocate, a patient advocate, and a member of California’s First Amendment Coalition. He received the Society of Professional Journalists–Northern California Chapter’s James Madison Freedom of Information Award in the Advocacy. Feedback: monette-shaw@westsideobserver. An expanded version of this article will appear on the Observer’s web site shortly.

City College (Cont. from p. 1)

Restoration of the Board

One of the casualties of the accreditation crisis has been local control of our College. In July 2013, following the Commission’s announcement that it would be terminating City College’s accreditation, State Chancellor Harris suspended the local Board of Trustees and placed responsibility for the College’s governance solely in the hands of his appointed Special Trustee. However, with the disaccreditation threat apparently receding, Harris in November announced a plan for restoration of the local Board through a phased process by which the Board would gradually reassume control of the College. The Board has been meeting since January, and by July we will have reassumed responsibility for all aspects of the College’s governance, subject to the significant caveat that, for the indeterminate future, the Special Trustee will retain authority to overturn any decision of the Board that is contrary to accreditation, or would jeopardize the College’s finances.

Challenges Ahead

The challenges still facing the College are daunting. There is still significant work to do in addressing the Commission’s remaining issues, primarily now in the areas of student services (found to be uneven and inequitable across the College) and integrated planning (a Commission priority that the College has yet to fully demonstrate). But perhaps the greater challenge is the tragic decline in enrollment since the accreditation crisis began. During that time, the College has lost more than a quarter of its students. If not for legislation authored by State Senator Mark Leno, City College would be facing a consequent budget hit of \$30-40 million dollars, which would be truly catastrophic. Leno’s legislation softens the blow by limiting the reduction in State funding to five

percent a year over a three year period, thus buying City College that bit of extra time to try to reverse the decline before facing the full fiscal impact of the loss. At the same time, after approaching a decade without raises, our faculty salaries are now among the lowest among Bay Area community colleges. And then of course there are the facilities challenges that have occasionally made it into the papers. With dwindling local bond funds and little facilities funding available from the State, the College nonetheless must find ways to whittle away at the hundreds of millions of dollars in deferred maintenance needs, rebuild the Civic Center campus (recently shuttered for seismic safety reasons), and finally, build a much-needed Performing Arts Center at the Ocean Campus (promised to the voters during two separate bond campaigns and still not under construction).

Good News

There is some good news. City College continues to create educational and career opportunities for tens of thousands every year. Our faculty and staff, fatigued and frustrated by the College’s travails, still care intensely about our students and every day accomplish minor miracles on their behalf. The rating agencies recently raised City College’s bond-rating (which they had lowered based on fears about the College’s survival), allowing the College to refinance its outstanding bond debt, thereby saving the taxpayers nearly fifty million dollars. Having survived the existential challenges of the last couple of years, the College can and will address the challenges ahead. It may take time, and it will surely not always be pretty, but we will save our City College for generations to come.

Rafael Mandelman is a Deputy City Attorney in the Oakland City Attorney’s office and President of the City College Board of Trustees

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Taking a Bath

“Water, water everywhere, nor any drop to drink.”

Such is the Rime of the Ancient Mariner written in 1797 by the English poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge. And here we are almost 220 years later with the same lament. The threat of tsunamis, rising tides, global warming and snowless mountain peaks are all too real and very much a part of our daily lives. Aside from growing almonds, where did all the water go? Did the Romans have such fears or concerns? Did they let it mellow until it was yellow? Did they have better politicians? Hardly!

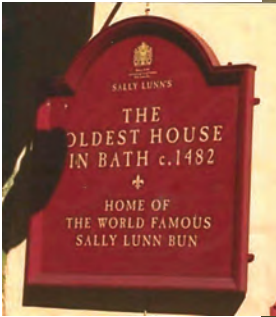
A very dear friend recently quizzed us about their forthcoming trip to London with a few days in Bath. We were there in 1990 and all I remember is “water, water, everywhere.” I also remember how good the Pistachio ice cream was, but that’s the subject of another story. The train ride from London to Bath was enjoyable, picturesque, and on time. We met up with some friends who were staying a few days in Bath so we let them lead the way.

Our first stop was the Roman Baths, where their engineering skills shone brightly. The baths had hot water, cold water, dry and wet heat. Having been built over 2,000 years ago, it is still one of the best-preserved Roman remains in the world. The average folk bathed only once a day, but the more fortunate double dipped, followed by a full body shave and undoubtedly a relaxing massage. It was a great life while it lasted, until the lead pipes providing the water put the party on hold.

To enhance our visit we picked up an audio guide and listened carefully as we admired the courtyard built in honor of the goddess Sulis Minerva. After our informative tour we stopped at the Pump Room, where we enjoyed a glass of the spa water that is reputed to have mystical healing powers. To be honest, to me it tasted like water.

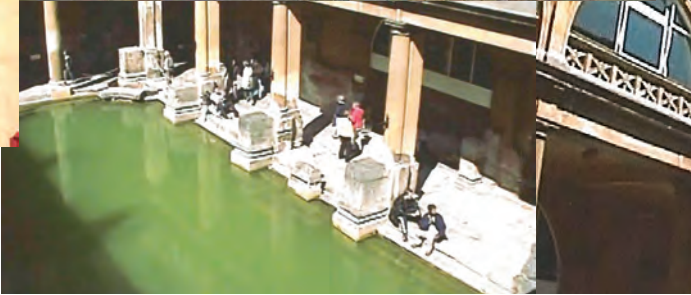
On our way to lunch at the Moon and Sixpence we passed by Sally Lunn’s, the oldest house in Bath dating back to 1482, grabbed a sample at the San Francisco Fudge

Factory, and managed a visit at the spectacular Bath Abbey, whose interior was draped in sunlight and whose ceiling looked like it was made of Murano lace. We managed a stop at the Costume



Museum, and a visit at the Royal Crescent with its perfectly manicured lawns, and it was time to head back to London. We found Bath to be larger than expected and certainly worth a few days’ stay next time around.

So now as we look back at the story of the hapless sailors who were stranded in the Antarctic, led to safety by an albatross only to have the albatross killed by an angry mariner who was destined to wear that albatross around his neck for the rest of his life, are we being fooled by our well-meaning politicians who may be trying to lead us out of



this drought only to take away all that precious water, raise the prices, and then end up within a few years with an overabundance of water as nature has been known to do. Hopefully we won’t be seeing that politician anytime soon with that albatross around his neck. If you were to find him, it may be a good time to read that poem once again. Now go flush your toilet.

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